

HENRY JOSEPH DARGER—

"THE HISTORY
OF
MY LIFE"

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cloud was shimmering continually over for 312.1
a second or two with a strange under cloud of
lustrous gray white like frost silver. The
movement of it was from west to east and also
from the sides to the center but the movement
of the center appeared independent and always
took an eastern direction.
Before each outburst of agitation there
was much hissing and throbbing with in-
ternal roaring as of imprisoned gases;

Now it seemed a furious ~~destruction~~
demoniacal as if no power on earth could ever
bind it, then playful and sportive then for a
second languid but only because it was

accumulating fresh force.
Sometimes the whole cloud took the form
of mighty waves and surging heavily across
the partial barriers with a sound like
the surf of the Atlantic lashed fore covered it
and threw itself forward in clots of living
raging cloud.

It was all confusion commotion force, terror,
glory, majesty, mystery and even beauty.

Then the cloud was in terrible ebullition,
rolling to and fro in its cloud surges and
crazy billows all moving slowly northeast-
ward. This most destructive tornado of all times
was unegalled in violence was now some
distance away to the northeast but still its awful
tumult could be heard loudly that far.

And all the people of Glenora town were grouped
by where the square stood, many looking
most intently at the crazy action of the
still immense cloud overhead.

Then another thing. The Danger. I leaped
of what a what it had done to
everything on that railroad freight yard
north of Gayles Rock, and then to Chester,
Irair and all the way to New York.
Nothing could preserve them from
the fearful destruction that its awful
repeated minutes of uninterrupted blast
did produce. blast which nothing

3/22 nothing could withstand and in which on twenty second seconds did far more damage through Charleston than the most violent earthquake could do. What the papers said according to the immeasurable terror raging through Charleston it spang into unbelievable not only at the beginning of its entrance into the twenty eight mile long, altho it steadily increased and the noise became more and more vehement it was presently audible ten miles distant and then than twenty miles distant and still its noise mixed with the tumult of the shattering buildings waxed louder and louder until the great uproar of the unusually terrible tornado now so rapidly developing astonished the inhabitants as far as Joliet. And as the witnesses told the papers there were other symptoms of the raging calamity. With each successive convulsion of the storm a quantity of all sorts of debris was projected into the main cloud of the upper whirl over the winds swirls this debris along at the upper whirl as rapidly as it was hurled upward by the storm and accordingly the atmosphere far and wide became heavily charged with the flying and suspended debris. A shower of debris of all kinds lay on small fell all over the adjoining landscape. Such was the thickness and density of these atmospheric volumes of tornado debris that for more than four miles around the debris came down as a cloud burst of wreckage. Do you believe it Mr. Dager or not? "I have to," answered "There is too much proof when the awful tragedy of Charleston took place many thousands of the unfortunate inhabitants from Groves Avenue all the way to New York State had been

3/23 destined never to behold the sun again. The debris continued to fall for a week after the storm and at times it still fell - many. Hard one hit the roof. Go on. He paper said as the storm passed over and the spasm of the tornado waked more and more vehement and the room carpet was at hand. It was said after the storm roared through a quarter of it city the blackness of the tornado cloud now much thicker than ever was only occasionally illuminated by strange lurid lightning flashes. The paper said at the city of Joliet there was no quiet at that time. The houses trembled as with a atmospheric violence and the windows rattled as if heavy artillery were being discharged in the streets and a clatter of iron was falling mingled with scattered debris. And still these efforts of the writer seemed to be only rehearsing for the supreme hour. Ten minutes later the rehearsal was over and the performance began. An overture consisting of two or three introductory shrieks and yells was soon succeeded by a frightful convulsion which tore away nearly all of Charleston like straw before a gale. The gale and scattered it to the winds of heaven. In that final outburst all previous previous tornadoes on this earth was completely broken. Truly the equal had been of once unexpected and most horrible and terrible. As it had been so dark no one actually saw what took place there. One could see the scene of the passing tornado having enough to do to save their own lives while the debris

3122 nothing cold with stand and in

3124. crazily agitated cloud and
a flying tornado debris baffled
all observations.
The phase of greatest violence so the
super says not in when the center
nearly the center of Chester town,
all that territory farm witnesses
claim as they saw had vanished
behind a dense black cloud full
of under cubable turmoil the height
of which was estimated at eighteen
thousand feet and debris began to
fall ten miles distant.

→ a miles around fence, flashes
of lightning rent the raging
cloud and at a distant of four
five miles ghostly conflagrations
gleamed on the west wires of the
telephone and telegraph wires and also
the poles.

The phenomena grew more and more
alarming when the uproar of the
whirling maelstrom shook earth near
by town and as the uproar being far
the most violent and productive
of the most wide spread results. It
was in fact the most
tremendous ever known in
human history.

It overcame the oblation to the
energy of the air city resistance
for all the tornado spread ruin and
death over many surrounding leagues
from what it threw so far. At Chester
town itself when rescuers and relief
workers reached the scene every thing seen
was found to be changed. About two
thirds of the main central section of
the city were blown completely away.
Where buildings had been before
now bare ground existed and in
one place the ground upheaved to
be a large round somewhat deep
depression.

But the part of the city that remained,
remained at this section had been somewhat
increased in straw debris.

At other parts of the city 3125
a large portion of a grand Sacred
Heart Convent had disappeared with all
its inmates. St. Vincent's Church was
swept away, a new story block long build-
ing was scattered all over the territory. A
rusty market was destroyed while many
changes had taken place in other parts of the
city.

The enormous fan flying cloud of all sizes
of debris which had been flying high into the
air by the action of the tinter and rollers
far and wide almost darkened the sky
for a great area around and fell in heavy
showers on towns, farms and villages cities
even.

At La Jolla about thirty miles away it
came down to so thick as to cover the
ground thickly and injured many persons
in the streets and damaged many roofs.

At more the same distant north the
debris showers were similar but lasted a
little shorter time.

In places much further away where the
sky for a time was clear the sky presented
a strangely murky, murky aspect and
the rain assumed a strange green color a
green shade that can never be found in
an artist's paint collection no matter how
many green colors he may have.

Phenomena of this kind were traced

3126 over a broad area of Illinois and
other states even as far as Bloomington
Bloomington while over a yet wider area
as far as Indiana the sun where
the sky was clear I was slight up by some
strange afterglow of extraordinary beauty while

The formation of this wild cat tornado
seems to have been due to some deep lying causes
of extreme violence in the upper atmosphere
this appearing not only in the terrible explosive
violence of the twister which tore Chesterton
to almost nothing and sent its remnants
as flying debris many miles away around
it but also from an internal concussion
that at the first affected the edge of the
black cloud which almost simultaneously
took the form of a little girl's head turned
side ways with tongue sticking out as it
does from strangulation and then the
tongue turning tornado.

We read that tornadoes coming from
very odd shape clouds such as this one
for instance are the most dangerous and
deadliest and most destructive of them
all.

That this tornado caused such a tremendous
shower of debris and enormous fragments of
houses which were whirled and flung out
far and wide and scattered in all directions
causing destruction and death was very

extraordinary beyond conception. 3/27
It is said by many witnesses
that the crazy acting over hanging clouds
more over were so over charged with elect-
ricity that miniature tornadoes added to the
horror of the scene. It was actually a most
paroxysmal type of twister.

So therefore this tornado has been the
most destructive to life of all known twisters
unless otherwise all other tornadoes usually falls
short of this one in its murderous
results.

The distant effects of this tornado were as
remarkable as anything ever known before.
The concussion of the air reached to an unprece-
dented distance and the clouds of flying debris
encircled all of Northern eastern western
and south. Bay and Goliad producing
striking phenomena of falling debris to
a depth of a foot or two.

The rapidity with which the effects of
the tornado made themselves evident in
all parts of northern Illinois is the
most remarkable outcome of this most
extraordinary event. The flying debris
reached as far as Chicago a few hours later
pelted streets and roofs like a hail-
storm. Immense quantities of debris of a
similar description and believed to have
been derived from the same cause reach
and fell on Maine and no doubt much of

3129 It continued to fall in a slighter amount for over a week. Another result of the tornado was the series of atmospheric waves caused by the tornado disturbance in the atmosphere which affected the barometer over the entire United States. The velocity with which these waves traveled has been variously estimated at from 112 feet to 1,266 feet per second.

The speed is of course very much inferior to that which sound travels through the air.

Yet in three distinct cases the noise of the tornado heard when crashing and tearing on through Chester Brown was plainly heard at a great distance as far as Chicago and in some instances as far as even St. Louis. The waves traveled to Rockford, Illinois north of the disturbance, Joliet, Bloomington, Simons, Ill. and Western Illinois, Rock Island, Alton and Cairo, Ill. and places wherever within a radius of over a hundred miles east, south west and north.

Five days subsequent to the explosion of this wild cat tornado after the strange atmospheric waves had traveled four times round the globe the barometer was still affected by them.

The supreme effect of this tornado produced the mightiest sounds that we can ascertain have ever been

heard in this world by tornadoes. 3140 It must have been indeed a loud noise which could travel from Chester Brown to St. Louis or Chicago and preserve its vehemence over so great a distance to make windows rattle but we should form a very inadequate conception of the energy of the tornado if we thought that the sounds were heard by those men twenty or thirty miles off.

This would be little indeed compared with which is recorded on testimony which it is impossible to doubt as so many countless people even as far as St. Louis testified they heard it whether within their homes or out in the streets.

Westward from Chester Brown about the wide expanse of Ill. to Danversport Iowa the distance from Chester Brown probably being sixty miles it has been proved by evidence and the testimony of all the people there and evidence that cannot be doubted that the uproar of the great wild tornado attracted the attention of all the people and men of the National Guard who carefully noted the character of the sounds and the time of their occurrence. They heard them an hour after the actual uproar for this is the time the sound occupied on its journey.

This mighty incident of the wild storm

3142 has taught us other lesson on the constitution of our atmosphere brought on by the full fury of the twister we previously knew very little, or I might say almost nothing as to the condition that prevailed above the whirling twister. It was the extraordinary force of the tornado and its immeasurably reaching power which first gave us a little information which was greatly wanted.

How could we learn what winds was blowing around the upper portion of this whirlpool of air which drove upon and into the sky far upwards prodigious quantities of dust taken up from all the destroyed brick buildings and wall plaster.

Hundreds of cubic miles of air were thus deprived of that rarability which they had hitherto maintained.

And also with astonishment men as far as Joliet and even Chicago and elsewhere watched those vast volumes of debris flying far across the sky and then shown down upon them.

The debris dust manufactured by the supreme convulsions of the twister which was whirled around a good part of the country by the mighty alomphic current of the tornado discharged it as the dust cloud from the debris was whirled along and heaved far upward by this current

incomprehensible tornado. It like the eruption of Krakatoa showed its presence in the most glorious manner by decking the sum in countless parts of the sky in hues of unaccustomed splendor and beauty.

Of course it did not like Krakatoa caused this all over the world, but over the northern United States. The blue color in the sky under ordinary circumstances is due they say to particles in the air and when the ordinary matter produced by this tornado of the most extreme not violence even the sun itself showed a blue tint.

Then the progress of the great dust cloud was traced out by the extraordinary sky effects it produced and from the progress of the dust cloud we inferred the violent movement of the tornado upward whirls, currents which swirled it out far out and carried it along. We need it be thought that the quantities of material projected by the enormous sections of the tornado should have been inadequate to produce effects of this central country world into description.

Imagine that which was blown to the winds of Heaven by the supreme Convulsion of this tornado could be all recovered and swept into one vast heap. Imagine that the heap were to be measured by a vessel consisting of a cube

3144 a third of a mile long and two inches deep it has been estimated that even this prodigious vessel would have to be filled to the brim for all the products of the tornado have been measured. Do you believe it Mr. Wager or not?

"I do not know what to say about that kind of measure," I answered. "If the debris is only from Chesterbrown then all right. You must remember though Chesterburn, Jame Velle and so on not counting the Gleason Orphanage and St. Sall."

"I believe even as the papers say to imagine that this heap were to have its bulk measured by a vessel consisting of a cube one mile long one mile broad and sixty feet deep, it has been estimated that even this prodigious measure in this prodigious vessel would have to be filled to the brim at least ten times before all the product of this awfully strong twister had been measured."

"Are you not exaggerating Henry?"

"I know no more about it than I know about the Geographies of this country or the moon," I answered. "I do not state this, the papers do. With the blind rage of this wild cat tornado no one had the slightest sort

of suspicion that the top of 3145 this wind made known was the mightiest tempest ever known, probably more than a hundred times stronger than that awful hurricane which once laid so large a part of Calcutta India on the ground and slew so many of its inhabitants.

But it sucked up no dust nothing was preserved from this utmost fearful unbelievable destruction that this tornado produced. It is true as the papers say and still say no earthquake no matter how violent could do as much damage to these cities as happened from the Gleason Asylum to New York State.

When this great whirling wind crazed merciless monster had become charged with the dust it sucked up, then for the first and I may add for the only time it stood revealed to human vision."

"Are you quoting Krakatoa on the tornado?" Henry?"

"I'm quoting what the papers say. Rich. This is witnessed too whether whether you believe it or not. Two cows no one knows where they came from I saw myself fastened on a tree near the ruined convent, locked together by their horns. It took two hours to get them down.

3146 and half an hour to saw them loose from their horns. I don't believe you believe the tornado did that? I've got to see it done" said the two men together a tornado will do the most craziest freak."

Well then about this dust freak. It is not specially to the quantity of material sucked up by this immeasurable strong suction tube of the sky that it owes its frightful reputation. Great as it was it never was surpassed, and the special feature of the Chesterhouse tornado was its most extreme violence which flung debris dust and countless tons of debris all around it to a distance probably never before attained and produced land and air waves of an intensity unparalleled in the record of tornado action. Remember how far over the rest of the city of St. Gall the tornado flung so much debris. It was hard for the people as far as down town to get through.

All house tops were covered with wet slant roof or flat and all nearest houses facing the twister across the way had all their windows broken by the debris thrown in. And St. Gall was covered with a layer of gray white dust as if it had snowed. Furniture was found

as far as the south side? 3147
think this was due to the suction of the funnel and the possible in d- and downward flow of violent currents of very cold air from above and an upward rush of a great volume of summer heated air to revolve a million revolutions a second in the storm the result being the sudden production of enormous volume of debris and dust.

The strange red and other other colored sunsets spoken of above were extraordinary than that caused by the Krakatoa eruption, but not produced all over the world as that one was. It yet was so extraordinary in character that a fuller description of them seems more advisable than yours. Such too it happened also because the painted walls of every house are all different colors including wall paper and plain various colored paint.

A remarkable fact mainly concerning them was the great rapidity with which they were disseminated to distant regions of Central United States. They appeared as far as St. Louis and every part of southern Ill and Missouri. From here they spread to Kentucky and south with less rapidity. Their first appearance in Chicago heights was when the storm

3148. clouds partially cleared away for a time and at Danbury, Iowa on the same evening. On the latter part of the evening they were observed in Milwaukee and the southern, eastern and western Wisconsin, and as far as southern Indiana. They were first seen in Bloomington, Ill., Joliet in fact all of Illinois and Kentucky.

The effect lasted in some instances as long as an hour and three quarters after sunset. In Indiana the sun and skies not then much cloudy assumed a greenish hue and there was much curiosity regarding the cause of a green sun, while what clouds there were assumed an olive green at the thickest parts and orange yellow touched by the sun.

Another remarkable phenomenon of this period was the great unusual prevalence of the rain of all sorts of debris long after the tornado over a wide territory.

This was probably due to the height of which it was sucked or flying and scattered so far, that is to the fact of the far upper air being so filled with debris and house dust. The prevailing theory in ~~connection~~ regard to debris being that the existence of so much debris in the air sufficiently high up was necessary to its fall such a

distance away. As far as Chicago 3/49 and other cities streets and roofs and park grounds and recreation centers were covered with it, in so far dust fell to make it look like a gray white or color mixture snowfall. In regard the strange sunsets of them there were three similar instances on record.

The first of the three when a dry dust fog covered all Illinois with a red haze. The other instances were in the early evening and following morning. It lasted for several hours as a pale blue haze, and occasioned so much obscurity that the sun was only visible when twelve degrees above the horizon, and then it had a blood red appearance. Also there were or was a peculiar phosphorescent gleam in the atmosphere by which fine print could be read at mid night of the 17 of August.

The red sunsets were remarkable for their long persistence. They were observed on the evening of the sixteenth with almost their original brilliancy and they were still visible next day being seen at intervals as if the debris dust was then distributed in patches and driven about by the winds.

In fact similar sunsets were occasional visible elsewhere. There may well have been due to the same cause when

3130. we consider with what extreme slowness very fine debris dust makes its way through the air and how very much it may be affected by the winds. I read that one writer described the appearance of these sunsets in the following terms,

"Immediately after sunset on the sixteenth a patch of strange white light appeared ten or fifteen degrees above the horizon and shone for five minutes with a lustre pearly haze. Beneath it a layer of bright red rested on the horizon melting upwards into orange and this passed into yellow light which spread around the lucid spot.

Next the white light grew to a rose tint and soon became an intense rose hue. A vivid golden violet yellow strip divided it from the red fringe below and the rose red above. On the morning of the 17th, I observed the sunrise effect as follows,

Immediately after the sun had risen a broad cone of silvery lustre rested upon a horizon of smoky pink brown and magenta. After fifteen minutes the white became rose, green, brown and purple at different spots above, and yellowish and yellow orange below depending

to standard or royal purple. 3157 and finally back to a reddish color while some of the other colors faded out. The whole cone gradually sank and died away in the brownish red flush on the horizon more than an hour after sunrise."

The time of duration varied since on that succeeding evening, it lasted only a half hour. This description not at all exaggerated represents the general condition of the phenomenon.

These sunrise and sunset effects if we can justly attribute them to the action of the awful tornado, were extraordinary not alone for their intensity and beauty but for their extraordinary and extended duration, the influence of the most remarkable tornado outbreak being visible for several weeks after the event."

A freakish incident of the tornado

Another man said to us "I was on the bank working on a long thick stem of a plant when the storm came up - near me some little girl gave a loud scream and clutched a man's arm. This man struck by the wind was flung over backward and

3/5-2 many people gave a yell of terror at that long stem with long leaves and beautiful water lily like blossoms was tougher than a hundred rawhides on one. Yet the wind stretched it towards a telephone pole wound it around firmly in less than a second, then both shot up straight up into the air, sticking and struggling on the end.

The little girl and the man, who happened to be her uncle had grabbed the long stem as it soared upwards and in a trice we three were having the strangest and craziest ride ever known for riders.

We were hurtling towards the northeastern section of Chester Brown like three cannon balls - faster - and faster. The little girl and her uncle clinging fast to the stem, seemed in danger of following me to the clouds.

At first it looked as if they would be torn loose from their stem by the wind which was stripping our clothes from us so swiftly was the wind blowing but it was not long before we shot straight ahead and in several minutes more we were passing the Sacred Heart Convent which seemed to disappear in a cloud of dust.

The storm finally flung the 3/5-3 stem to which we clung from it with a whistling noise it was flung far and we three rolled over in a heap. I was injured, but the child and her uncle escaped without a scratch.

Another person gave her own description. I saw from an under in the park described. I do not know how many people in the park were swept away and killed. We arrived in the park in the afternoon of August 15. My husband, son and little daughter.

For half an hour after we entered the park we could see far in the distant sky attached at the lower part of big cloud, a cloudy form like the shape of a strangling child. Yet no one had any idea of danger.

The spectacle of the strange cloud formation was magnificent. Yet as we approached the zoo grounds we could distinguish the protruding tongue turn into some awful shape and black clouds formed around it a funny wide long shadow something was then stretching in a long slant towards the upper cloud, now and then waving to one side or the other for a moment and again rising higher up.

There was a constant muffled

3154 as distant roar like a large
troop of dogs all howling at
once. Then the whole park went
like a tremendous explosion. I was
under the underpass, there was no warn-
ing. The whole park was ripped out and
there by itself hurled through the park
straight towards us a solid cloud of
debris. The wave of debris was on us and
over us like a lightning flash.

It was like a hurricane of flying
wreckage of all sorts. I saw it strike the
3000 low buildings and shatter them
away.

The hoard cloud rushed in to mass
straight through the city which vanished
before our eyes. It grew awfully dark
and the underpass was in the very thick
of it. The blast of the tornado in passing
through the park lasted only a minute
and thirty seconds according to my
watch and wiped it out.

Before the twister hit the park
it was crowded with people. Afterward
not a person being was seen and
trees and everything else was gone
even the animals.

But I have a confession to make
whether you believe it or not "said
another woman". The tornado was
like a whirlwind of real hot fire.

My husband was not the 3155
only one not killed outright. He
was caught by the tornado blown
a great distance and terribly
burned by the heat of the wind. You
I suppose you wouldn't believe that
would you? My husband was overcome
by that hot wind. He was picked up
unconscious from the ground and died
on the way to the hospital.

The passing of the tornado only
lasted over a little more than 20
seconds. The heat of the wind in many
survivor say shrouded and set fire to
nearly everything it touched. They say
thousands of cases of rum were stored
in So Salle and these were exploded
by the terrific heat of the wind which
also flung them about far.

The burning rum ran in streams
down some of the streets. It set fires
to scores of houses, houses and if
it had been for the heavy rain
following the tornado So Salle would
have been wiped out by a terrible
conflagration.

Before the tornado struck the
park it was crowded with people.
After it, believe me not one
person or anything of the park
was in it. It was seen anywhere.

3156 Only twenty five of those caught
with me by the tower out
of one hundred and sixty eight
were left alive after the tower
threw us every where where we lay
until rescuers came and took us
to the university made hospital.

At that time it looked as if all
of the city of Cherteshire was on
fire. I was among the rescued. The
tornado had tore up Cherteshire like
a mighty forward sweeping explosion of
unmeasurable force.

It looked to me like a revolving
cloud of fire, rushing forward sway-
ing and roaring whirling as it seemed
with lightning speed and tore through
the town like the force of a big
tidal wave.

I saw the destruction of the Sacred
Heart Convent. Such an enormous
unbelievable strong and large building.
How could it be.

I can never forget this horrid
fiery choking whirling wind which
enveloped me when striving to
get out of its path. I and others had
rushed for the underpass in Smeaton
park (Cherteshire). This park equals that
in Chicago. We are not today burned
not so bad as most of them.

When the tornado came 3156
we were running for the
underpass to get out of its path.
It was yelling like a million
wolves if I'm not exaggerating. The noise
of the building it was tearing up the
roar of thunder could not equal it.

When it hit the park it was like
a more than a mile explosion.
One of the fugitives with me ordered
me to yell a prayer to God. I did so
but when that swirling tidal wave
of wreckage came I still was a
few hundred feet from the under-
pass.

When it struck it picked me up like
a small feather. Some one near-
ly got horribly burned by the heat
of the wind. He had inhaled some of
the hot wind as it swept turn
swiftly onward. Then he disappeared
into a cloud of dust.

I still had some chance had I been
quick enough. The wind carrying along
with me a man and a fellow man.

The noses of the two men were
burned by the wind intense heat.
The heat of the wind was unbearable.
Everywhere I could see the dead
and dying covered with debris while we
lay injured on the ground and the scene

3157 that presented itself to my eyes baffled description. Two among us out of a great number blown about by the "hot storm" were the only persons who escaped uninjured.

Where they lay men, women, and little children by the hundreds, and the appeals of the latter for water were heart-rending. When water was given them they could not swallow it, owing to their throats being burnt with the heated tornado air.

Beams of houses were burning here and there. I saw near me a man lying so dreadfully burned and disfigured as to be unrecognizable. He was in dreadful agony, begging piteously for the rescuers to hurry him to the hospital.

The scenes of parts of the burning which I saw was awful.

The groans and cries of the dying for whom right away nothing could be done was horrible. I saw a young woman as being burned to death by the hot tornado wind with a living babe in her arm. It seemed as if the whole world was going to pieces before the storm.

Many houses had disappeared as if blown away by some mighty underground explosion. Some very badly

mangled bodies were found here and there. 315-8

Another person an elderly man who as he told had also told of racing for the underground, but reached it on time told us the story of the great disaster in the following words:

"That afternoon all of us in the park found heavy brown black clouds shadowing the sky after the passage of the first awful thunder storm. A portion of the rear of the darkest and largest cloud had the shape of a strangling girl child turned actually sideways with her tongue protruding half way out.

It inclined somewhat downward and hoard thunder was heard from the lightning flashing from it.

As I heard later there were echoes from La Salle on the south and Joliet on the north.

The people were alarmed to escape to move or run at first, but most of us not yet knowing the nature of the strangely shaped cloud did everything possible to allay the panic. We were watching "the choking child cloud" when the tongue lost its shape suddenly and with a frightful roar, disappeared away in a

3159 black shroud full of terrific electrical discharges. Then it seemed as if a cyclone of fire swept near the city, and through the streets sweeping all before it and rushing through and wiping out the whole folk from south to north with all the crowd of people and everything in it and destroying all the valuable animals and birds also.

Here the accounts of the catastrophe so far obtainable cease. I could see not how come because of the intense evening like darkness. Yet in passing on to the east I don't believe that whole whirlpool west of New Norway could be one thing as I don't know how many bodies are strewn about in the tornado wreckage or else floating in the river.

Twenty eight charred half dead human beings were brought to the relief center. Sixteen of them are already dead and only four of the whole number are expected to recover.

A little girl, Margaret Mary Stanch a nine year old daughter of John Stanch, a Chester Brown Sawyer and also a municipal judge who with her mother, a brother aged four and

and sister aged six was in 3160 their all fated beautiful wooden mansion was saved from the stream 'wrecks' but was not expected to live at least as I have heard. But she did.

Her nurse Clara Sesemann tells the following story of her experience.

She said she was in the library when the cook in the kitchen called out to her:

"Look at the crazy shape of that cloud - turned sideways".

"I went to the window and saw a vast cloud shaped like a little girl's head turned sideways" she described. The tongue was sticking half way out and the head was inclined slightly downward.

Hour shaped clouds were attached to the neck as if strangling the child.

The appearance of this odd shaped cloud in the stroke under the chin and the upper lip had something very unusual about it, something which made me very apprehensive.

Although at the time there was such a strange oppressive calm, still there was nothing like a regular natural cloud movement but on a short quick angry cross darkening of the

3159 cloud about the neck in every direction as well as in the forehead of the cloud as elsewhere. 3161 the neck seemed to squeeze in. the tongue protruded more out and suddenly from the inward part of the tongue came a shaft of twisted smoke shaped lightning that made the oncoming blackness blinding bright. The heaven seemed blown to pieces, so loud was the thunder and the vibrations broke the windows and shook the house to its very foundations.

I hear a funny following sound and saw a strange change in both sections of the cloud. I became aware of a loud and strange sound that gradually increased. Where the tongue protruded there was a sort of coughing and half choking sound while below the apparent shoulders which were convulsed, a noise came like the moaning of a most large swarm of buffaloes upon our western American prairie, and at the same moment I perceived that the strange almost human naked shaped body of the child formed cloud was rapidly changed into a odd churning current which

set to the eastward; with 3160 its arms appearing to stretch down ward with hands wide open. 3162 Even while I gazed the face seemed awfully contorted that strange current acquired a monstrous velocity. Again came lightning but tenfold brighter and the thunders that followed was doubly loud.

"My God," I cried frightened turning to the look of that crazy cloud corner here God help us. That a mauling furious tornado.

"How come?" he asked.

Look at what was the protruding tongue" I shrieked.

The long tongue was gone. In its place was a howling furious cloud shrouded half way up a whirling umbrella shape upside down formed around it. Each moment added to the unbelievable speed of its whirl to its head long impetuously. In five minutes the head neck chest and abdomen form of the cloud appeared to expand outward the belly lurching out into a tremendous roll of cloud and then the whole cloud forming into one vast canopy full of blazing lightning was lashed

3164 into the most terrific and ungovernable
fury. It was between the
shoulders and where the neck had
been that the main upsurge shield
its most indescribable sway.

Here the vast cloud reeled and scamed
into a thousand conflicting channels
of delirious fury, it lurching suddenly
into the most frenzied convulsions,
heaving, lurching, hissing, girdling
in gigantic and innumerable vortices
and all whirling and plunging
overhead to the northward
with a rapidity which if it had ever
been water, could never anywhere
assume except in precipitous deep
descents.

In a few minutes there came
over the scene another radical but
terrifying alteration. Southward of us
appeared an absolute tidal wave
of forward rushing swirling wreckage
swinging upward in an awfully
wide umbrella shape. Suddenly
very suddenly this assumed a
distinct and definite existence in
an umbrella up and down circle
shape of more than a hundred
feet in diameter. It made a most appalling
noise. The edge edge of this

3165
dreadful while schooling.
out from the tornado was re-
presented by a broad circle belt of
strange electric fire but no particle
of this slipped into the mouth of the
terrific umbrella of wreckage.

Another more vast took form far
above and the noise was redoubled.

The horrid shroud was in-
clined towards the horizon at some
angle of maybe forty five degrees.
It seemed to spin speedily around
dizzily around and around faster than
the churning of a electric motor.

It had a strange and unusual
sweltering motion and sending
forth to the winds an appalling
voice like the unearthly howling
of big swarms of hydrophobia
mad wolves down below and
above a shrieking humming sound
such as not even a world full
of bees could ever lift up in their
agony to the heavens and mingled
at the same time with the appalling
roar of those vast umbrellas.

The very house trembled to its
foundation and the streets rocked
and the windows of all the houses
were shattered by the vibration. I
threw myself under a bed in an

3166 excess of nervous nervous
agitation and screamed. When
heard an awful appalling voice
half shriek half roar as if all the
devil and lost souls in hell were
yelling at one time, and awful as
if a big swarm of lions were giving
their roaring voices to the best of their
ability.

Then she seized Margaret and
pulled her under the bed.

I heard someone scream "It's coming"
The fragments of the house seem to sail
away ⁱⁿ ~~stirring~~ paper. A fierce wind raged
most madly at the bed, but strong as it was
the bed refused to budge an inch though
it shook on frightful convulsion and the
bedding and pillows flew away out of
sight.

The big heavy mattress resisted des-
perately but it was the last to go.

The bed still refused to move.
I experience a feeling of suffocation
which was followed by an intense
heat. Though we were under the bed
the hot wind tore all our clothes
from us. The wind for all of
its records grew mightier for every
second, then passed away all
of a sudden. I wondered exceedingly
what such a wind of overwhelping

unbelievable strength could 3167
not budge the bed, and it was
not against any wall, but by itself
and not fastened to what was left of
the torn up tile floor either. I do really
believe the bed was so stationed in place
and too because of its shape the wind
could not get a good grip on.

But the storm wedged us very tight
under it, and one of the survivors of the
house laid waste, Benson Bern though
er severely. I'mn by the wind heat
assisted me and Margaret by taking
the bed apart.

He covered me and the child with
some large torn cloth he found.

With the help of John Henry another
survivor he constructed a sort of stretcher
upon which they placed Margaret and
me.

"While this was being done Margaret's
little brother died. John Henry brought
the child water at a great danger to
himself but it was unavailing.

Shortly after the death of the little
boy his mother died. Her name was
Mrs. Mary Stanck.

Her husband was away in Chicago at
the time on business. Margaret and
Mrs. Heermann were taken away on the

3/68 brother and brought to the school house which was one of the houses which was not in the path of the winter. Mrs. Sesemann did not sustain serious injuries. Under the bed she covered the face of Margaret with a pillow slip. she found under the bed but still the child was fatally burned by the heat of the wind. What do you think of all this I'm telling you Mrs. Drangon?

"I saw many injured and dead badly scorched by the heat of the wind". I answered "All that is absolutely true without the slightest doubt. The faster a tornado whirls, the greater the heat of the wind."

Being told of this I asked about Mrs. Sesemann.

He continued. She had indeed a most thrilling escape. I believe throwing her self and that bed saved her and also Margaret. Mrs. Sesemann was an old servant and also housekeeper. She also had learned me nursing and was in Laugen Stacks home. Her employer was Mrs. Clement Stacks of Chester town and Mrs. Stacks three but very good children.

Mrs. Sesemann, catch quick

despite her sort of German 3/69 name and a very staunch devotee catholic, as well as her employers and little very pious Margaret eldest of the children aged nine years who had a beautiful voice for singing were the only survivors of the party.

Mrs. Sesemann also married with four children of her own was not seriously injured but her little charge suffered very severely, and her life was long a matter of uncertainty.

Mrs. King in describing to me said she was in the library dusting tables and chairs and window sills when the steward of that wooden mansion called out to her "Look at that crazy shaped cloud. She went out to see and observed the cloud with the shape she described.

She saw it all, how the shield shaped cloud became so terrible convulsions in its convulsions that the ground and house trembled under her feet not as it does when the earth quakes but as though a terrible explosion of the heavens was shaking the air and ground.

As she stood watching the strange cloud the under part connecting with the neck seemed to

1176 shudder and a moaning sound seemed
to come from the open mouth and
protruding tongue. It was getting quite
dark as she told me. Lightning came
as she had never seen before. A second
time, the thunder made a deafening rend-
ing sound, crashing grinding noise which
she could only (describe) describe, as
though every bit of machinery in the world
had broken down suddenly. It was most
deafening and the flash of lightning
that followed it was most blinding.
More than any lightning she had
even seen before.

From that awful lightning came a
roar of exploding thunder so loud so she
said as though all the masses of the
world were in the most terrific conflict
right there and firing all their big guns
at that one spot, at one time.

She had said said the tongue was
gone and above the still open mouth,
there appeared a great immense
black cloud which spread across the
sky in the convulsions she already
described.

There was no protruding tongue no
noise but a vast funnel cloud
which reached from high in
the air and literally fell upon
the ground then suddenly

became hidden in a large 3176
black shadow. She said Chesterlain
was doomed she knew but was
prevented from seeing the beginning
of the destruction by the coming intense
darkness that began to shut off the
view of the city. It was impossible
for her to tell how long she stood
there on the porch inext.

She told me of the same noises already
told. She probably as she said was
inext for only a few seconds but now
would were her impressions that as
she said it seemed as though she
stood as a spectator for many
minutes.

She told me all she saw. The uprears
down umbrellas of swirling debris
and so on. She told me when she
recovered her senses she grabbed
Margaret, (she had no time for
the others) ran into the spacious
bedroom and flung herself and
little Margaret under the first
bed she came to which happened
to be her own.

She did this when she heard
them siteward scream "It is coming".

After the explosive force of the
twister passed on there was no more
noise but the bed defied the storm.

3/72 Eighteen was the bed too heavy
on the wind didn't get a good grip on
it for being too low down. That
saved the lives of the housekeeper
and little Margaret With the help of
the butler the boiler room men who
were down there at the time they con-
structed a sort of stretcher out of some of
the debris. I & upon the young woman
and child were placed, and Mrs.
Seemann too.

While this was being done
Margaret's six-year-old brother died.

The butler brought the child water
at great personal danger but it was
unavailing as the child's throat was so
scorched by the heat of the wind he
could not swallow.

Shortly after the little boy died
his mother died. Margaret was taken
to one of the buildings that was crushed
by the storm and also Mrs. Seemann.

Fortunately her husband and four
were away at the time of the storm,
and so was Margaret's father.

He came as soon as possible when
hearing of the storm, and so did
Mr. Seemann who wisely left
his children home with an aged
mother and father.

I heard from Mrs. Seemann

that she covered the face of
little Margaret with a pillow 3/73
slip but despite this the child was
severely burned by the heat of the
wind. No trace of her little sister could
be found.

In the school house she presented a
most sadly pathetic figure. The child was
terribly burned by the fire heat of the
wind. The end of her nose was burned
off and her face was disfigured. Both
arms too were fearfully burned.

She was greatly distressed over the
loss of her mother and little
brother and sister. Her father was
at her bedside.

"I lived at 749 fifth street Chester
known with mamma, papa and my
little brother and sister" little
Margaret told me when I went to
see her. On the moment of the
awful fiery tornado we were in
the library, when I heard an awful
noise it was awful dark and
something knocked me off my
chair. I was sitting reading a
life of Christ.

Mrs. Seemann grabbed me
and running into the bedroom flung
me and herself under a
bed. A terrific wind flung her

3174 my mother against a wall so hard as to break her back and she died. Mrs. Seresman our housekeeper and nurse held me under the bed while the wind tried its best to sweep it and us away with the house but the bed wasn't even moved.

Then I and Mrs. Seresmann were taken here. I don't want to die. I hope I am not going to die but oh I want my mamma - I want my mamma and little sister and brother."

The only friend the child has is the housekeeper and nurse, Mrs. Seresmann is of Birmingham Miss.

She is a quodnoon but is a very capable woman. She doesn't know what to do with little Margaret and neither does her distraught father as he is nearly ill from the shock of his loss.

The doctors say the little girl will really recover but may be disabled for life. The housekeeper who so bravely protected her though very badly burned is not so severely harmed as the little girl.

How come tornadoes sometimes have such fiery hot winds? That seems a strange mystery."

"I believe that is easily explained."

I answered "The tornado whirls so fast, 3175 faster than any electric motor ever made. It also has terrific friction with the atmosphere all around it. It there fore spins itself into a fiery heat, especially lower down. This one had an exceedingly wilder whirl than other tornadoes ever did. So it was struck shatter in its wind."

"One way to explain it this way too. Any one knows that the axle of a passenger coach if not well oiled or greased will turn red hot from turning so fast all the time."

That is therefore called a hot box. That too is dangerous as it can wreck the train."

"I never could believe a tornado could spin so fast as to get as hot as a railroad coach axle hot box?" said Gach Jasniff. And yet continue on."

"The heat with the terrific moisture also is its beating heart of tough life" I answered "Its awful electric conditions can heat it up. The more electric conditions a tornado has the more dangerous it is. This one was vastly overcharged. That is why the lightning was so savage and the thunder so unmeasurably loud."

3176 I heard it eastward of the rail-
road riding which it wiped every-
thing out, and I wondered ex-
ceedingly, all the electricity also
helped to so terrifically heaten the fierce
winds. Some tornado. I'll say."

Another man said to me:

I was the conductor of the only street
car, and that with fifty six passengers
mostly tourists spectators to see our
home town of whom on the car few
escaped alive. Those who did escape
were terribly injured including me.
I'll tell what I experienced on the
following thrilling language:

My street car started on down the street
in the afternoon of the 9th. I noticed
a large section of the big cloud had an
add which I had no time to pay
any attention to as I had to complete my
run.

I continued to let off and pick up
passengers when it seemed a side of
the cloud opened out with a terrible
explosion. A wall or shroud cloud
swept down the street with indes-
cribable fury. My street car was
struck broadside only a swirling wall
of debris around the wreckage.

The shock to the car was terrible
nearly turning her over on her side.

Hearing the awful roar of the
tornado and seeing the great wall
of cloud approaching the street car
the passengers tried to seek shelter
under the seats or where it was possible,
jumping out into the street, running
for house basements and even fool-
ishly running down the street.

I was on the front platform but
the long scattering of debris was borne
by so incredibly a swift movement of
the air that they swept in through the
street car windows, and a strange heat of
the wind suffocated and scorched me
badly.

I was terribly burned by the heat
of the wind about the face and hands
but managed to keep the car going.

Then as soon as possible I stop-
ped the car and mustered the few
survivors who seemed able to move.
I ordered one of them to replace the
trolley if possible, leaped for the plat-
form and ran the car for full speed
ahead.

The conductor so far escaped injury.

They did their part to escape
but I could not work the steering
gear because it was jammed by
the debris from the twisted which
side swept the car. All accordingly

3178 I went ahead and backward until the gear was free but in the running backward and forward it was five minutes after the shock that we were clear of the danger zone.

One of the most terrifying conditions was that the atmosphere was full of flying debris and it was totally very dark and the darkness was only very brightly illuminated by the lightning followed by the loudest thunder I ever heard.

It seemed small to say that the scene was most terrifying in the extreme. As we went on we passed close to the park through which the storm was tearing which was one awful mass of flying debris people and animals all was rushing swiftly from the park before the force of the wind and the scream of the wind and the thunderous roar of the damn gale ripping the trees were most terrible to hear.

Also the cues for help were all in vain for I could do nothing but run before the gale and try to save my street car.

When I looked everything was disappearing away. That was at the time of the worst of the Tornado.

3179 When the street car was swiftly out of the momentary part of the storm with its desolation and horror I made headway for the end of the tour, arriving there when the wrecked car was safe, I mustered the survivors as well as I was able and searched for the dead and injured inside my street car.

Some I found between the seats where they had vainly sought for safety, but the car was full of debris flung through the windows by the wind or had blown in through them.

Through these windows the debris came like arrows and also the heat of the wind burned the victims and where they sat lay or stood living or some or circular imprint of scorched or burned flesh.

I brought ten out into the street or what had been a street who were thus burned by the winds heat, two of them were dead, the others survived although in a dreadful state of torture from their burns.

Then screams of agony were heard threatening. Out of a total of fifty seven passengers on board the car ten are dead and

3180 all the rest are in the hospital. The car was covered with wreckage on the arrival of my street car. On our car barn which was badly damaged the street car presented an appalling appearance.

Dead and calmed bodies lay about inside the damaged car which was also crowded with injured helpless and suffering passengers.

Prompt assistance was rendered to the injured by the survivors of the wrecked car barn and the poor tortured passengers were prepared for hospitalization.

The dead were buried. The escape of my street car was miraculous. I witnessed the entire destruction of Chesterbourn. The tornado went through the town with such indescribable savage fury that it was impossible than any person could escape.

As I had said the day was suddenly turned to night, but I could really distinguish by the glare of the blinding lightning people distractedly running about through the nearest streets.

All this time the raging tornado was hollowing its head off and splintering the houses and in the intervals between these terrifying sounds I could hear the cries of abject

despair and agony from the ~~thousands~~ who were overtaken and being probably swept away to the four winds. 3182

These cries added to the terror of the scene but it is impossible to describe the horror or the dreadful sensations it produced. It was like witnessing the end of the world, a world wide devastating storm laying waste to everything.

Let me add Mr. Wager that after the shock was over the survivors of the car rendered willing help to manhandle the car to the car barn.

The conductor survived though he was severely burned on the hands and face by the hot wind.

I am sure myself the performance of this street car motor man was most wonderful and the more so when I saw his pitiful condition as he was speaking to me. I do not wonder - stand how he kept up yet when the street car arrived at the car barn and medical assistance was procured this brave man asked the doctor to attend to the others first and referred to be treated until this was done.

The sight of his face would frighten any one not prepared to see it.

3182 another man said to me:
"would you believe it? I'm the motor
man of the street car that was hurled
by the storm onto the shattered roof of
the Sacred Heart convent in So. Hall."

"You're not fooling me?" I asked
looking at him doubtfully.

"I have many witnesses to prove
that," he answered. "I was the only
survivor though critically injured."

The sky was very dark and we
had a clear view of a very odd shaped
cloud that resembled the head of a
strangling little girl. The rest of the
cloud below it was not recognizable
because it was in such frightful
convulsions.

Great clouds of debris far away shot
high into the air and the very for-
mation of the landscape seemed to me
have changed. When I had driven the
car about eight blocks an immense
dark cloud returning that odd shape
had spread all over the sky.

From where the tongue had been
there was extended down wind a
very long funnel cloud with a
huge shroud at its base.

The sky darkened more and
seemed to swirl toward us like it

was gone mad. I can't des-
cribe the awful lightning and 3/5 3
earth splitting thunder that came on.

I called to the conductor
"Do you see that there?" I asked pointing
to the funnel cloud. He saw it all
right. His name was Michael Walsh.

"Well Michael I'm going to run
this car as fast as I never did before!"
I said to him. The passengers were
showing an anxious spirit and were
nervous and apprehensive.

We began to run through the
street at thirty miles an hour. Or-
dinarily we make fifteen. We could
see no more of the city contour for
everything seemed to be enveloped
in great darkness.

I didn't lose time in driving the
car believe me. We used electricity
as if it didn't cost a cent. I showed to
reach a street going southeast and
turn down on that, hoping to get out
of the storm's path. I cannot tell
much more, there was a deafening
roar which I cannot describe and
shocks. I felt the car lifted and
thrown upward and tossed upside
down on the roof. I lost consciousness
and woke up in a hospital bed."

3184 Returning to the necessarily des-
cribed stories of the survivors of the
Chester town which a number
have already been given it seems des-
irable to add here the narrative of
Wm. Elmer Scott, the conductor of the
worst ruined street car, in which he gives a
vivid and striking account of his per-
sonal but hard experience of this
most frightful disaster with many de-
tails not related by others.

"It happened a Center and Eugene street
he said. I conductor Scott am still here
with serious injuries. The motor man
Fred Johnson jumped as the car started
to roll over. As I supposed you've
have heard how the wind picked
him up like a small feather and
flung him two hundred yards
and thrown him fortunately into
a soft ground garden considerably
shaken. I was on the back platform
when I saw the tornado coming
with rapid fury.
I gave the signal to stop.
I shouted to the passengers to
stop that a cyclone was coming.
The noise of the storm was
horrible beyond imagination. It
sounded like a thousand blasts

from whistles all joined, and 3185
then reverberating over the city.
It was added at the same time like a
roar of a long freight train crossing
a trestle bridge mingled with scream-
ing as from a troop of children at their
loudest, the howl as if from thousands of dogs
and the added roar of tearing of wooden and
other buildings.

Added was a most loud humming sound
high in the air which grew so in volume
as to become deafening, the most peculiar
and fearful sound I ever heard.

The car was so crowded with people that
there even was hardly any standing
room. I ran for a basement of an unfinished
building. The rapid storm of wind was
coming down the street with a long
train of debris following it swiftly once
swiftly them to could see the motion and
was three blocks away.

As I fled four of the passengers were with
me just as I reached only to the
steps down to the basement, there was
a horrible noise of wind and I rolled
the street first roll over on its side
and then go down the street like a
kicked football scattering a number
of passengers like chaff.

An supposed shelter was laid waste
and clouds of wreckage flew over us and

3196 and a lot of board were piled on top of us holding us underneath. I received a partly crushed arm and broken legs and three ribs cracked. I don't know how I could be done but our hand being was driven through the car while tossed in the air and wedged between the badly deminished seats and the side of the car, and through the bosom of a woman.

There was not one piece of glass left in the windows of the car but the sides and every seat was soon apart. I was where the street was, landed 16 blocks away. That afternoon the clouds and the funnel and all the buildings of Chester town, brick or wooden, wooden were all "sent to hell in less than thirty seconds though it blew a full duration of more than thirty 70 seconds."

"All passengers on the car were killed or horribly injured. A number were little children. As I said I was standing on the front platform during the car. At first I was not looking at the darkening clouds at all. I had to watch where I was during the car said the motor from the bed next to him. But I guess the conductor was if he was

on the rear platform taking 3182 or passengers and I heard him shout "stop the car a cyclone is coming" I stopped the car and seeing the storm to the rear jumped off but the wind caught me, flung me forward a number of blocks and sent me southeast flying into a soft ground garden of a home not hit by the twister. (John Hunt?)

After that I knew not what really happened for the next fifteen minutes I turned around and saw the fierce storm passing by. Did you ever see the tide come into the Bay of Fundy? It doesn't sneak in a bottle at a time as it does elsewhere. It is all in fierce waves. (not tide?)

That's the way the tornado cloud of fire rushed through the streets over the town and over everything. Fragments of buildings went flying through the air like clouds of feathers. It was on every part of the city in no time but I saw it.

What became of the street car and the conductor and the crowd of passengers I do not know. I was too far away to see.

I was afraid it was all over for him and the street car and all its passengers.

This all happened in a long way more do 30 seconds, the storm though lasting a second in the reports some to 2 seconds.

3188 Then something new happened when the fury of the storm was crashing onward, a blizzard of debris followed in its rear. That debris went flying up so high and so solid looking that it seemed to rush up and join the main storm cloud above. For an instant we could see nothing but the forward rushing wreckage and the cloud.

That rear attraction or pull of the receding twister drew all that with it as it roared on northeastward and pulled the stuff away with it. I leaped from survival that the conductor saved himself by leaping onto a basement area, but that the tornado jammed a metal mat against his head as he did so.

"Am I right Winston?"

"Yes, it took two hours for the rescuers to remove it. Where it came from I do not know. The basement didn't save me as the flooring serving as the basement ceiling was torn away at once and debris from other houses almost covered me up."

I had leaped down the steps just as the wind came and it tore off my clothes before I got down. Two passengers who beat me down, saved me from that awful hot wind

by grabbing me by the legs 3189 and swiftly pulling me down into the basement. But, lay on the floor with a broken arm and leg caused when a big piece of flying lumber hit me a hellaw wallop and also cracked a few of my ribs.

Then three men were very, very roughly flung in on top of me. Two of them were dead. Then wreckage covered us. I heard there were only four of the passengers left of all the rest of the street car that though somewhat injured who could do anything.

The four were by the names of Hale, Thompson, Daniel John Taylor, Henry Michael, Gushee and Jones Williams.

It was still raining debris and dust and you can hardly see fifty feet. It was so dark, but we could stand that.

There were men and women with still smoldering clothes on them and a good number of children lying about, thrown about from the badly mangled cars. Not just burned by the heat of the wind but even their clothing smoking then when the rescuers got to them. More than half of the number of passengers had been killed in that

3190 that awful rush of wind. Some had been sucked out of the car through the windows and thrown, or rolled about when the storm came and the rescuers never so much as their bodies.

All that happened to every body in less than thirty seconds, they found some or parts of some bodies - an hand, or an arm, or a leg or a head. Bodies were torn open their insides ripped out.

Admired the wreckage of the inside of the street car there were some twenty still alive. The rescuers carried them who were still alive to some improvised made shed hospital.

All of them were mangled, mangled, burned and most of them were half strangled.

One little girl and her brother just a little shaver were picked up naked. The little girls hair and the clothing had been blown off but still were alive. They were passengers of the street car. The rescuers rolled them in some piece of ragged cloth found among the wreckage and put them in the refuge. A few minutes later one of the rescuers looked at them and they were dead. My own son gone too. He too was a passenger

on that ill fated car No 3192. body could where he was blown when he tried to escape seeing the rapid tornado coming. I don't know whether he was carried away into the unknown or buried far away in debris where rescuers could not locate him.

But was no more a child. He was twenty five years old. He was a likely grown 'boy' though. He would ride on the car with me when he could and was a motor man of a car on another trolley line.

He used to say he'd like to be a railroad conductor. After getting all the survivors that had any life in in the improvised hospital and then tended to the best we could the rescuers tried to fight the fire inside the street car. They got it out in no time.

It had taken some time to make the improvised hospital by the others out of what timber and truck from the wreckage across from us. We made that shelter for something over thirty five that were alive. We were only half way across the street from the other side but the other side was hell itself. Believe me. I never never want to go through such an experience again. We had enough.

3192 How in the world do such
Tornadoes form?

"I do not exactly know," answered
"It was said in the papers that the
hot weather this August had been the
worst for years, and might have been acted
upon by an unusually cool wave coming
down from the northwest."

"Can cool winds really do it by rushing
onto a hot wave?" he asked.

"Yes, that even causes all other types
of storms. This no doubt came from the
results that the cool spell was some-
what cooler than normal. It was said
that two hundred miles north west
of here the temperature dropped from 97
degrees to 47 in four hours."

A break in the excessive hot
spell resulted causing first the forming
of the two thunderstorms."

Through this break the colder
air rushed in.

Coming in contact with the super-
heated air and immense amount of
disturbances and revolutions of cloud
formations between the two storms
was generated.

Soon the winds became strength-
ened into an intensity of the probable
great tornado ever formed."

"How strong do you think this 3194
tornado was?"

"It is impossible to conceive its most
latent force. It showed its immense
whirling speed by the upside down
wreath of debris thrown outward,
and whirling with the shroud. The area
which confined it could not withstand
the increasing volume. Many said that
south of the strange odd cloud shape it
actually appeared like the front of
the strangling child's face with the
protruding tongue."

The area which confined this strange
cloud could not hold the dreadful
increasing speed of the upward "mad
dog" squall. The cap over the strange
head by its constriction and the
struggling convulsed body ripened the
squall was becoming much too
strong. It sought an outlet through
the strange cloud.

The solid winds attached the weakest
side which was the mouth and protruding
tongue. The neck seemed to be squeezed
in much tighter. Came the awful
lightning as described and the immeas-
urable loud thunder. The mouth and
protruding part of the
face was unable to withstand the strain
and blew out. Down came the funnel.

3195 as long as it takes a projectile to shoot downward through the air and drop to earth, just so long it took the fierce, the furious funnel to fall upon the ground. 7 of the path of destruction is anything like that much worse than other disasters no vegetable, or animal life can survive them for a minute.

"Didn't any one ever get any warning?"

"It is quite certain that the people were warned in sufficient time to escape. Surely they heard the crazy uproar of its coming. What caused such a death rate was because there were so many tourists here, and also the people in the park did not heed the warning. They gawked at it."

"The tremendous record breaking speed of its wild whirl wheel retarded its onward progress and so it surely did move forward so slow as to give them ample time to escape. Curiosity they say kills the cat. So they did not take heed until it was too late. Flight did no good."

"Such manifestations of that straggling whitehead cloud preceded the noisy climax of this tornado on full scaled action. And such a stormade horror as this?"

after a pause I said: 3196
"Sustained to this from this paper. The first acceptable report of the calamity came by telegraph from Ottawa 7th and was printed throughout the United States on the morning of the 20th of August 1913. It announced that the city of Chesterbrook principal railway station town of Illinois was destroyed by an overwhelmingly strong tornado of unlimited fury with eighteen thousand of its running inhabitants destitute and homeless at 4:30 in the afternoon of the 15th. the feast of the Assumption."

It is reported three thousand were killed mostly tourists and people visiting relatives and friends. 7,000 were injured more or less."

The whole top of the great Sacred Heart Convent was reported to have been blown off and mysteriously disappear with all its inmates. The population leaving their homes at the approach of the roaring monster fled through the streets, but in vain."

Eighteen most important buildings were destroyed by the wind and the people who fled through the streets were soon caught in the awful wind storm and blown about every which way."

All the suburbs were wiped out. All kinds of communication with Chesterbrook, as well

3197. as all other towns and cities was
wiped out. Railroad communications also.
The great Angel Guardian Orphanage with its
large play ground and equipment are
no more and eighteen hundred children
killed or seriously injured.

The other reports of losses is as follows:

The Chesterbrown National Grand Bank
with thirty five million dollars.

The International Grappler Bank, and
all the hundred million in currency gone.

The Manager and all employees killed.

The Mayor of Chesterbrown, his staff
and wife and two children, one a boy, the
other a girl.

So far as known only thirty children
were believed to have escaped without
injury of all those who were in the great
Angel Guardian at time. These were taken by
Auto. to So. Galles. The commanding official
at So. Galles reports that by four thirty
five the entire orphanage was wiped out by
the storm. He said the rescuers endeavored
to save as many children, more or less in-
jured or stunned by the hot winds of
the tornado.

They went into the devastated ground
searching for the injured children but were
unable to penetrate the wreckage of what
was left of the Orphanage. They saw heaps

of little sprawled bodies upon
the ground, or also among the wreckage 3198
and it is believed not a single child or
the sisters and other attendants escaped.

The only main big buildings to escape
from the disaster was the great St. Michael's
Church and Catholic University which was six
stories high a block and a half long, and
three quarters of a block wide.

With twenty nine other buildings it was
fortunately not in the path of the twister.

But its windows were broken by the vibration
of the storm as it passed by a block or so
away.

The many injured were brought into this
place until it was almost overcrowded.
Doctors and nurses came by means of
routes still open from the southwest and
southeast.

The Chesterbrown Sacred Heart Convent
was among those destroyed. Some witnesses de-
clared the tornado exploded its top and swept it
away with all its inmates. All that and
the inmates were never found. Others
say that it was torn away in a terrible up-
heaval of wreckage and clouds of dust.

All of the unfortunate children including thirty
five nuns and five employees and two priests
were never seen again even to this day.

Only two persons, a Sister Clare and a
little girl escaped but were seriously injured.

3199. Another the Mayor of Moline telegraphed to Springfield Illinois to the Governor from So. Ball. Under Date of the Assumption August 15 at 10.15. m as follows.

"Have just returned from Chester Brown. I saw unspeakable desolation there, but though I see it with my very eyes the great Sacred Heart Convent which is supposed to be towards proof has been completely destroyed by an immense tornado of immense immeasurable strength.

All of the top or upper three stories of the building is blown away. roof and all and what is left is a tumbled down mass of total ruin. The entire population of the Convent disappeared with the upper part and is supposed to have perished as no trace of them can be found. It seems they vanished into thin air. One little girl, sister or nun, survived or escaped though badly hurt.

An engineer, his assistant and the boiler room man escaped also by being in the deep basement at the time. With the help of rescuers they were freed.

All the outside property has been wiped out by this terror of the air. It is feared the head priest superintendent

of the convent has perished \$200 as he disappeared with the rest. He telegraphed August 17 that he was proceeding to the Convent to keep the head sister conduct a childrens Grand banquet in honor of the feast of the Assumption. It was during the banquet that the awful storm struck.

Bishop Knight is also supposed to have been at the banquet. He too is mysteriously missing. Investigators had tried to reach the Convent but found the territory thickly covered with wreckage of other buildings and the building blown looking as if it had been blown up by dynamite and could not get near. Also it is dangerous to approach it.

The Iowa town Minister of So. Ball. received at seven o'clock the same evening two messengers from the Secetary general of the Government of Springfield Ill. The earliest report was that all wire communication were destroyed between Chester Brown and all other places but it added in view of reports that the worst tornado on all record had wiped out every thing from Chester Brown to Janesville and all trains available at Springfield were dispatched to the assistance of the survivors of those places but couldnt reach there as all railroad

3202 communications are cut off especially
by bridges and rail tracks and rail-
beds wiped out by the storm.
The second dispatch confirmed the des-
truction or reports of the destruction from
Chester town to Garretts and its environs
and the big bridge crossing the river by the
storm and said it was supposed that Garretts
and its entire population had disappeared like
the upper half of the Sacred Heart convent
and also the entire population of Chester
here had been annihilated with the
exception of three hundred injured and
wounded rescued by rescue parties
arriving there.

Immediately after the receipt of the
above dispatches the flag over the Government
office was draped with crape and hoisted at
half mast. On the morning of August 18
the following telegraph was received by
the State department:

"Suffer little children of
how they must suffer down
it"

St. Paul, August 18. Sec. of State
Washington. At a little after four thirty
on the afternoon of August 15, the feast
of the Assumption a terrific tornado of the
most exceeding violence after laying waste

to the first sections of Chester. 3203
tornado tore up the block and half
long three story Angel Guardian Orphanage
and community. It wiped out the immense
playground destroying or sweeping
all the pleasures and increasing suffering
and catching nearly all the children at their
play blew them about and beyond the grounds
like feathers. Not more than twenty escaped.
All the rest were killed, or horribly and
very painfully wounded or scorched by the
terrific heat of the wind.

Eighteen playground houses were destroyed
with all in them including four playground
exercising instructors and the head nurse who
was out there at the time. Nuns and orphan
Arylumn Nurses and Doctor and women
attendants are reported among the victims.

The latest available figures showed that
the total population of the Angel Guardian
Orphanage eighteen hundred, all girls of whom
three hundred and fifty perished, and the
rest, excepting the thirty who escaped, very
painfully and dangerously wounded and scorched
by the heat of the tornado wind.

What they are now suffering on the hospitals
from their injuries the poor kids are better off
dead. The head writer according to what
friends had said.

This afternoon all of the children had
their eyes directed upwards and they add

3204 shaped black cloud like a head
of a child. Some one would be strangling.
The cloud connected with the neck was
in convulsions as if some thing with the most
uncontrollable fury was agitating it. Great
many of the youngsters were afraid it was a
strange cyclone and that it would take
into its heart to destroy the whole city.

All of them however went up on high
places of the playground to (look) look at it,
and to see it better.

I was in my office with little Christine
and we suddenly heard a strange loud
howling sound. It was so great that we
supposed at first that there was a pack of
wild dogs outside and Christine went out and
found no dogs anywhere.

The noise was very loud so great
that dishes were thrown from the shelves
and the orphanage was completely rocked.

We could see nothing because it was
getting so dark. The strange smell of sulphur
was so strong now that houses on the street
stop and snort and some of them are
obliged to give up drops in the kitchen
and die from suffocation. The head priest
assured me that there was no immediate
danger, that only a severe rain is coming
and when there is the least
particle of danger we will

fly quickly into the basement - 3205
ment of the building. It is a good sleep
one of the storm becomes too bad or if
there is a cyclone we will at once go into
the basement.

Horror over this great calamity has even more
since been the controlling feeling of the nation.
How came the sense of sympathy for residents
here, whose hearts are still breaking under the
continued strain of waiting for definite news of
missing loved ones of the ill-fated Sacred
Heart convent.

The unmeasurable magnitude of this mysterious
calamity was such as to appall every body.
It came with the suddenness of a thunderclap
from a clear sky. The reading public could
not believe a tornado could do this to so strong
a big building.

"He said he" many cried. "The builders
said it was positively earthquake proof and
tornado proof. Look at pictures of it now. More
than half of the building and all the
kids blown away, never to be seen again.
Tornado proof. Who said so?"

"There is yet no building that can be
made tornado proof" some one else said.

"The bigger the building the worse it gets. It
needs another."

"The big ones the storm does worst," speculated
some one else.

3206 "knowing the Sacred Heart convent
as I well do," said a resident of
Chicago "I have no doubt, not the slightest
doubt that the disaster was just as terrible
as described and my anxiety for the
fate of my children and other young relatives
is great

I can't understand how any tornado can
lay waste to so strong a builded build-
ing. There have been many great
tornado disasters and severe loss of life
but never such a most terrible wild
catastrophe as that which is being described
in the papers. What is why? I most firmly
believe the reports are far from being
exaggerated.

Undoubtedly there had been a great bon-
quet started when the storm came and all
were caught in the great banquet hall victims
of the false security engendered by previous
comparatively harmless disturbances."

From Chicago also came the sad heart-
rending story that Mrs. Jennie Turner was
prostrated over the news of the terrible disaster
of the Sacred Heart convent as her children
two girls and a boy had been there.

On learning of the terrible tornado she
recovered and is in a recovered condition yet
she wanted to go to Chesterton like
many others did, but her doctors won't
let her. Her three children are believed

to have mysteriously disappeared 207
like the rest. The poor woman is completely
out of her mind now and prostrated
and in addition is in a delicate condition.
She now imagines she sees her children
before her and wishes for them to come
to her. She is perfectly insane from her
loss. With her are her mother, father, sisters,
brothers and uncle who vainly try to control
and cheer her with what are feared false
hopes.

They anticipate she will not survive her
coming ordeal. She keeps screaming. Oh they
are gone. They are gone. The poor demented
lays in her hospital bed surrounded by
friends. Every time the newsboy comes with a
paper she starts. She is not permitted a
newspaper unless one comes with good news
but anxiously asks is there any news. Then
again cries "They are gone. Oh they're gone, gone"
gone. Oh they're gone."

Another thing to be read is as follows:

During the awful afternoon of August 10th
the feast of the Assumption what was left of
the Angel Guardian Orphanage was an unrecog-
nizable stretch of desolate ruin everything
torn up and charred. A witness who was
not in the path of the storm reported that
having just driven his auto near there
he was talking to an officer about how dark
it was getting and what was causing the noise.

3208 who was in a machine along-
side when they saw a tremendous
ragingly agitated cloud rushing with the
most terrific rapidity towards the
asylum completely in an instant envelop-
ing the former and the play ground
in a sheet of flying and scattering
horror and flinging debris at their cars
as far as they were parked from the
terrifying scene.

Many of the killed child victims
were scorched to death by the heat of
the wind. Most of all in the play-
ground disappeared. By super human
efforts having their gasoline engines still
on they backed their machines away
from near the grounds, and sped
around the other way to reach the
main front entrance of the ground
to render what aid they could.

More than three hundred of the
little victims of this tornado were lying
dead contorted and mangled out of
human semblance, among the shattered
debris which covered the play grounds
and the streets beyond. The windows
and fan flying scattered wreckage
and window sash rashes.

Two Twenty five ^{more} of the children
have since died. The survivors of the

asylum among the children 3208
were horribly injured suffering
untold torture and agony. Witnesses were loud
in their praise of the heroic conduct of
the janitor of the asylum in his desperate
efforts to try to get the children out of danger
with his own but unrelenting efforts. His
hands were badly scorched by the heat of
the storm. Beyond more or less burns
all over his body, the janitor is as fit as is
also thirty six children he did succeed in saving
from though they too are badly scorched and their
clothes burned off.

All the equipment on the playground of the
value of more than a million dollars were
destroyed the large chapel, gymnasium, from
the building, street, then the school room
are on the second floor.

The large winter play room upstairs but
is filled with wreckage. The whole wind
according to the janitor gave much
warning of its approach, but the head
master not seeing its coming, because of
the intense darkness coming on thought it
was a big cloud burst of rain rushing
up. There was the sudden slowness of
time to herd the children into the
deep basement. After had she
heeded the warning.

There came a whirl wind of unexpected

3210 force and wind which suddenly swept most of the orphanage and the hospital building along side of it. There were some eighteen or small children play houses in the grounds, including the entertainment show house building, stockroom building, and a large coal and fuel shed and summer kitchen or lavatory.

All were splintered wreckage, or demolished brick work and so on. The lavatory though of brick was no more. All these structures much more fully exposed to the storm "flew" away instantly and at the same moment.

Every house across the street from the asylum was utterly destroyed, and the asylum grounds also apparently buried under the debris and other wreckage. Quite a few of these structures were long more than a four story type and many believe these buildings cut off the worst of the storm. The asylum and all it had and with the children might have been swept away like the upper part of the tower.

A surviving police officer who was sent near the asylum penetrated but a short distance into the grounds. He found only a few walls standing of the hospital and the wreckage literally

3211
paved with bodies of dead little children. The head sister and six other nuns were killed. The janitor said!

My first thought when I saw all the devastation was that it was simply the history of Sodom and Gomorrah repeated, except not by fire but wind. The nuns of the inhabitants of the Angel Guardian Orphan were very like child saints. Good women were the exception compared to those holy sisters. I cannot picture the holiness and saintly morality of that asylum vividly enough. It had to be seen to to be understood.

These poor children were simply like rats in a trap and had no way to turn. We never thought of a tornado coming in this territory.

It seemed entirely impossible and the fact to the stretch of the Magnolia River and the railroad right of way had full strength to lead to his mistaken and unneeded supposition. That proposed type of cross roads mentioned had been constructed southwest of Chesterbrown but after all it did not hold off the storm. It actually headed it for Chesterbrown. The crossroads lay about three miles to the southwest of the city," he continued. And yet could

3212 be climbed and walked on after hard work. It was made steep, very steep with a precipitous ride in the south west and also rocks and asphalt. The cross road proper was two hundred yards in diameter and slanting upward slowly to a height of more than eighty feet.

It was constructed at enormous cost and labor. The strange part of this immense crossroad was its enormous size and all the material used to form it. I have seen it myself, but had doubts it could turn aside any tourist on check it.

The real fact is this tourist entirely forgot that immense crossroad taking it all away with it. I remember when the awful darkness came, the roar of the still distant winter by the concussion it produced in the air caused everything to rattle and shake and children were still in the asylum ran out into the play grounds and began praying and crying. The nuns screamed and fainted and altogether excitement and apprehension prevailed. I cite this to give an idea what occurred when the disastrous winter overtook them all in the playground

and destroyed every thing and 3213 killed 33 children and horribly injured the rest. I had noticed myself he continued that the weather had been in a state of great disturbance for nine consecutive days before the 15th.

All those days the weather was excessively hot and damp, there being little breeze.

On the evening of the 14th there came a storm of torrid rain with unusually heavy thunder and the most severe lightening ever seen in thunderstorms which soon changed into a most loud continuous tremendous roar, a deafening thunder crash every second, sometimes run simultaneously.

Real volumes of rain poured down becoming heavier and heavier and the mass unusually large hail at times fell as thick as large snowflakes upon all the country side destroying a vast amount of farm crops.

At Gleason town the hail was said to be two feet deep and the size of hen eggs.

It was very squally with the odd unusually severe thunder storm. In So Ball I heard they fell fully a foot deep and many larger hailstones fell in Moline. At So Ball countless windows

3214 windows were broken were broken
everywhere even in Chicago thirty
people are known to have been killed
by lightning and the damage to

property by lightning was heavy very
heavy everywhere. The storm roared
and raged madly all night without
the slightest cessation and there was so
much unusually heavy rain, I feared the
Magnolia river would overflow and
flood us. Late in the morning it became
intermittent and fainter slowly heading
away to the northeast.

Before the great thunderstorm a re-
port from So. Belle said the sky was
heavily overcast all day the heat was
excessive and there was a distant sound
of thunder.

Late early in the afternoon dense
darkness set in and a great quaking
of rain came down and continued falling
all the rest of the day and night.

People were afraid to go to bed who were
afraid of thunder storm, and all the
other couldn't sleep because of the unusual
boiler of storm like this.

Here this storm came up before it
hit Chesterham more than thirty five
miles away. Lots of damage was
reported of windows by the hail and

buildings struck by lightning. 3215
The storm was exceedingly violent
here too but started coming up at
4:30 P.M. in the late afternoon.

It was said the loud reports of the
thunder resembling artillery fire was
heard at 9 o'clock at five thirty in the
afternoon. At six o'clock there came there
darkness and thunder accompanied
by a strong downpour of rain which
continued all night, but the storm
there was not one third as severe
as what hit us.

Then the disaster was to come. The
cloud which was soon to shape like the
head of a strangled child emerged from
an enormous cloud in the shape of
a giant blue black mushroom and its
outer edges even though there was no
sun showed a strange beautiful amber
tint. All over the land the ground was
still strewn with the large hailstones
warm as it was.

Birds were all flying away and all
animals acted strangely apprehensive.
The tornado followed the thunderstorm
at the asylum everything appeared scattered
as by a mile wide giant explosion.
The great heavy iron gates of the entrance
of the asylum grounds are actually gone.

3216 Most of the strong iron fence
is gone and what is left is
so twisted as if melted by fierce
fire heat. The iron framework of the
beds that were used both in the asylum
and the hospital that is the beds still
left are twisted as if by great fire heat. The
bed clothes and other textiles have completely
disappeared including all the heavy mattresses
and bed springs.

There are only thirty six unhurt that I
managed to save unhurt at the University
turned hospital here from burns by the
heat of the of the wind, whereas there are
more than 30,000 various asylum school
books of all kinds strewn in the grounds
and near by streets. Twenty of the
dying children who were half calcined
by the winds appalling heat were
brought here. Of this number sixteen
have already died.

None of the poor Sisters survived
or employees either. Many of the other dead
were so horribly burned as if they had
died of the horrible black leprosy. Near the
asylum the streets have disappeared.

On one spot in the play grounds
the bodies of forty eight young children
lie huddled together near the asylum
what is left of a wall with their
arms and legs protruding among the
debris.

A small rivulet formed by 3212
the rain flows through the ground.
Savage most strong tall oak trees what
are left in the ground twisted by the
storm, with all their bark gone and most
of their branches lie with their roots
upward, or standing as if on their
heads beneath a mass of rubbish from
which emerges the arm of a woman
employee.

Strange to say the Sister Superior
was wedged tightly among what was
left of the strongest branches with
nearly all her clothes stripped from
her. I was impossible to get to her to
cover her up.

Blunt edges of wood scattering
were driven into the trees like arrows
and much clothing was stuck on the
remaining branches and big floor rugs
too. And these did not come from
the asylum. All of the Chapel of the
asylum and what it contained and the
altar and stations of the cross and
the big crucifix disappeared.

I know I have lots to tell and
must. The latest victims that reached
me from the number of my ward
children that actually died twelve hours
after the killer tornado only add to the

3218 person of the situation in the hospital. It was thought when the news of the disaster became known that the material loss would be heavy, the death list would not be very large but it is now known that up to twelve hours after the storm the fatalities among the children, number 700, and grave fears are entertained that the list is not yet complete.

This darn tornado is a dreadful child killer. There is considerable anxiety in the cities and towns as to the condition of affairs of the asylums, as though they're orphans, they have relatives of various kinds. The relief parties have rescued five hundred children from the debris from points even in the wreck strewn streets beyond the asylum grounds.

Everyone of the rescue workers are nearly exhausted but they don't give up. All the hospital accommodations in Chester town constructed from the wreckage was taken up thirty six hours ago. Large numbers of the injured children are occupy improvised structures built from the wreckage. But the crowd of injured are so large that many are compelled

to be put into the bus - 3218 ment of what is left of the asylum, the report that the Turner Bank that had deposits from the Asylum and all the funds, securities and cash is missing."

"The paper says" continued. Hundreds may thousands of men women and children swept to sudden death and thousands more or some badly injured. 18 000 small thousand homeless in Chester. Brown homeless or slightly injured. Beautified medium sized cities and towns destroyed in a few hours from Johnson to near Haute or much furtherly a most appalling tornado never before seen.

Scenes of untold suffering and utmost devastation that beggar all attempt of description. Our whole Country and the rest of the civilized world horrified by the appalling ruins of the greatest the most appalling tornado calamity since tornados have ever been known.

Such is the most record breaking tragic story of Chester town to near Haute and other portions of Indiana.

There have been many tornado disasters by tornados and their wild insano fury in recent times but none to equal this - The St. Louis.

3225 calamity was on a far less scale. The dreadful Omaha tornado did not result in a ~~all~~ eighth part of the loss of life that has visited Chester Brown alone whose doom has been sealed by this dire calamity.

The Chester Brown tornado was far worse than all the fifteen big tornado disasters from July 6, 1893 to March 24, 1913 all put together in one not counting the hurricane disaster of September 29 and 30th covering Florida to Virginia and the one at Galveston September 8, 1900 or that at Omaha Eastern Sunday March 23, 1913. This latter it is believed to be worst than the whirlwind of fire that came so suddenly from Mount Pelee and destroyed the city of St. Pierre and its ships in the harbor.

In a moment in the twinkling of an eye as it were, a multitude of human beings were plunged into the jaws of death, injured more or less, many were crippled for life, or life long helpless or helplessness in bed, life long helplessness from badly injured crippled maimed and countless thousands homeless.

Four residences shared the warful fates of the humbled dwellings

3241
of the poor the biggest and strongest buildings disappeared away into dust, bridge of iron construction are no more and whole railroad lines and their railbeds wiped out. Buildings devoted to business, banks two big convents, the Angel Guardian orphanage, churches, the super- and other markets, ships on the river all were consumed by the irresistible force of the storm.

The news of the overwhelming disaster came as a shock and apprehension to people every where. In cities and towns and even villages and country farms, the sight of any type of black cloud of rain or thunderstorm started apprehension or panic for fear a tornado was heading for them.

Bullington or bulletin board in all our cities were surrounded by eager crowds to obtain the latest reports. Thousands having had children in the ill fated convent flocked to Chester Brown to learn of what became of their missing children or relatives.

All in vain. And they still there and nothing can induce them to return home. Many who had tourist friends mothers fathers or other relations in the state city were and are still kept

3223 in extreme suspense respecting their fate. The United States so flag every where were at half mast and countless masses were celebrated in all Catholic churches for the survivors injured and the souls of the dead. All church churches of all other religions had services of the storm victims, even the Amish, Jehovah witnesses, free masons, the Salvation army, Christians, Scientist, Quakers, Second day adventist, Mormons and so on.

With bated breath was the terrible record breaking calamity talked about and in every part of country, city town and farm committees of relief and aid for the homeless were immediately formed, also for the injured.

The magnitude of the disaster grew from day to day. Every fresh report added to the intelligence already received, and it made clear that many thousands of the inhabitants from Johnson Ill. to ten Haute Ind. had been either swept out of existence, added with the overwhelming number of injured, and the greater overwhelming number of the homeless and destitute.

No such appalling disaster distinguished by the suddenness of the blow, the number of the victims, the wildness of the tempest, the completeness of the desolation has since come to the civilized world with such

overwhelming and harrowing 3224
immeasurable force. The destruction of St. Pierre cannot equal this greatest of tornado disasters of all times of the Sacred Heart Convent and the Angel guardians of young nearly three thousand children sent instantly to eternity.

All accounts agree that in Charleston alone only a few minutes were required to overwhelm ten blocks at a time with clouds of flying wreckage, consuming the whole population not only of this city but of other cities and a large section lengthwise of the country into mangled injured and homeless.

The first reports of this record breaking disaster were too incredible to believe to be believed by anyone. The following graphic accounts were among the first received.

A Burlington limited train arrived at Moline from St. Louis in the morning of August of the 16th bringing a number of injured. The engineers, porters, conductors and all the passengers confirmed the report that the city of Charleston was entirely destroyed on the afternoon of August the fifteenth at half past four by the wilder tornado that they themselves seen tear through it with hellish fury.

3225 The forward conductor of the train reported that the passenger took all the most badly injured onto the train. They endeavored to save all the baggage cars and what could be put on the passenger coaches from the wreckage of the town.

The passengers hurried to the scene of horror as soon as the awful storm roared on to the east, seeking for survivors, filled the train but were unable to penetrate the town because of the wreckage.

They saw heaps of bodies on debris strewn streets and it is believed that out of twenty three thousand of the population only eighteen thousand escaped from being killed injured or maimed for life. The great majority of the victims are children, especially of the Sacred Heart Convent, Gleason Orphanage, and the Angel Guardian orphanage.

It is believed that not a single child of the Gleason orphanage and Sacred Heart Convent escaped at the moment of this unexpected catastrophe. The Governor of Springfield Ill. was but recently in Chester Brown and couldn't believe it though he seen it with his eyes.

The extent of the catastrophe cannot be imagined. The engineer of the Rock Island freight train freight train was very seriously injured.

3226 All of his train crew are dead. The supercargo and all other merchandise is scattered far and wide. The freight cars, flat cars, coal cars and cattle cars are a total wreck. Flying about like teddy bear toys. An American Mail train which arrived at Joliet from the southwest on the morning of the sixteenth reported having passed Chester Brown the night before.

The top of the car was covered with various type of debris though the town was five miles distant from the town which was in impenetrable darkness and an awful thunderstorm was raging with a cloud burst of rain. A number of auto trucks were sent in as near as near as possible to the edge of Chester Brown but it was too dark and stormy to see a single shining soul. They could not penetrate into the streets of Chester Brown.

An Alton limited train coming north from St Louis arrived at Joliet Chicago by being rerouted on the Purgat Sound at 7:12 PM August sixteenth way ahead of time. The conductors and the passengers reported having been obliged to reroute on the other line from Joliet during the nearly noon storm in consequence of blockage by wreckage flying that far by an unusually wild tornado which

3227 was said to have wiped out Chester known north of Joliet which rose and ripped through there. The train tried to first reach Chicago by the Rock Island route but adverse situations prevented her from doing so for that railroad bed was destroyed from So. Salle to Joliet.

The Alton Limited arrived opposite Chester known on the afternoon of the seventeenth but could not go east west or north.

The passengers and the train crew could see how the explosive tornado swept the whole length of Chester town, destroying the city like the volcanic blast of Mt. Pelée did to St. Pierre, and the railway siding there with all its property there including a long passenger train hurled off the track down an embankment, tracks and all which was about entering Chester town on the Pennsylvania Railroad line.

The Alton Limited while resorting to the Puget Sound while on her way to Chicago encountered a quantity of wreckage of all sorts falling on her from the sky.

The telegraph officials at Chicago received advices from So. Salle that a train that arrived there from the territory of Chester town reported that more than three thousand were supposed to have been killed.

injured more or less and that 3228 more than eight hundred and one compelled completely homeless because of the killer tornado. There the slow merchandize freight belonging to the Palmar and Ohio was lost with all train hands during the tornado hour near So. Salle. The following despatch was sent out from Washington on the evening of the seventeenth:

Washington is appalled to night by the unusually severe catastrophe that has struck the middle northern Ill. According to official advices, but no eighteen thousand are the ruinous, out of more than twenty thousand inhabitants from nature's destruction of Chester town. The administration is still in ignorance of the effect of the most terrific tornado storm on all record upon other places from So. Salle to Terre Haute Indiana. Further tornadoic disturbances are apprehended elsewhere throughout Ill. and fears are entertained that much American possessions, including at So. Salle to Indiana which are practically the property of Chicago bankers may be affected.

President Wilson (over) received on August 17th this despatch from the

3229

Governor of Springfield
 Secretary of State Washington
 At four thirty on the afternoon of the
 fifteenth of Aug. August - the feast of
 the Assumption visited a "mad cap & furious"
 tornado, whose over whelming winds were fiering
 hot from too swift a whirl enveloped the
 city of Chesterbown and others totally wiping
 off the map Jannville and its population,
 blowing everything away.

At Chesterbown not more than two
 hundred and sixty escaped with their
 lives but are hospitalized seriously in-
 jured.

Eighteen munition houses in Jannville
 were destroyed totally all the explosives
 scattered over a wide territory, the houses
 being destroyed with the deaths of all

within them, including a large public
 school, four churches and a Lutheran
 Church and Rectory. At Chesterbown the

city Mayor and family are
 reported among the victims. The
 Sacred Heart convent the Sacred Heart
 Church alongside of it, the Angel Guild-
 inn orphanage and the immense super-
 market and other prominent places
 are no more with frightful loss
 of life.

Signed Governor of Springfield

This dispatch reached the State 3230
 department yesterday from the Mayor of
 So. Falls.

Secretary of State Washington
 Communication with all the town cities by
 telegraph and telephone cut off altogether Rail-
 road bridges by the score wiped out
 and tracks of two or more railroads des-
 troyed with their railbeds.

Unable to communicate any where even from
 So. Falls where north side was torn up badly
 with severe loss of life and many injured
 and hundreds upon hundreds homeless.

According to information I received many
 people were killed from Johnson Junction
 to Jannville by a record breaking tornado.

Signed Mayor of So. Falls

Appeals were received by the State department
 from persons living in New York, Chicago,
 and other big cities and towns who have
 relatives with interests in the tornado torn
 territory, that all trains possible be
 immediately dispatched to the territory
 to render assistance. The Secretary
 and presidents of various railroads considered
 on the morning of the seventeenth the
 advisability of ordering special trains to

3231 So. Ball, but it was decided not to take action until the full extent of the disaster to the various railroads and river bridges be known. The Chicago, Gary, Baltimore and Ohio was ordered to deliver to So. Ball and try communication with Chesterbrow.

The only other train route the Railroad Committee has is near Kankakee, the Illinois Central which is tied up or blocked by the recent country wide wheat field fire, the Santa Fe, the Burlington at Moline, and the Southern Pacific at So. Ball. They are tied up by wrecked railroad bridges devastated railroad lines and fields of various type of debris.

A dispatch from Joliet stated the chief Conductor of the Sardinia Limited on the Alton road telegraphed to the Mayor of both So. Ball and Moline from Joliet under date of the sixteenth on the morning as follows:

"Having just returned from Chesterbrow which has been completely destroyed by an immense massive wild cat tornado which tore through there at four thirty on the afternoon of the fifteenth of this month of August. There has never been such a devastation by tornadoes like this before. The entire population about twenty eight thousand supposed

to be killed, injured or rendered homeless. I have brought to So. Ball about thirty five missing missing from the Angel Guardian Orphanage. All the rest of them are killed, or so seriously injured they'll be crippled or bedridden for life. All the factories, the Catholic Sacred Heart Convent the Guardian Angel Orphanage, the great Supermarket have been destroyed or wiped out by the immeasurable storm.

Thunderstorms and heavy rains continue. The President of the Alton Road was ordered to return to Chesterbrow if possible with all the speed possible, and to forward details of the immeasurable disaster to the National Government. The Sardinia Limited had gone to Chicago by a reroute in order to obtain provisions.

It was feared that the Mayor of Joliet had perished. He telegraphed August 12th that he was proceeding to Chesterbrow on a visit to his father and mother.

The Mayor of Chicago is also supposed to be in Chesterbrow.

The American Colonial Minister of Ottawa Ill and Maine too received at 6 o'clock in the morning of the sixteenth two telegraphed messages from the Secretary General of So. Ball sent respectively at 2 and half past ten o'clock.

The earliest telegraph reported that all were

3233. were broken down between Chester
broun and all other places but it was
added that in view of reports that the
dreadful twister had wiped out Chesterbroun
to Jameville and all the railroad lines
available at So. Halle too and what trains
were despatched even to So. Halle to the
assistance of the inhabitants of that place could
not get through to there.

The second despatch confirmed the
reports of the destruction of those cities and
their environs and all communications by
the wildest tornado on all record and said
it was supposed that the whole population
of Chesterbroun and Jameville had been
annihilated.

I immediately after the receipt of the
above despatches the flags everywhere all
over the United States was draped with
sable and hoisted at half-mast.
People people all over the middle west
came very apprehensive every time black clouds
of a thunder storm comes up fearing the
coming of a tornado. John Martin Smith
a general in the army and a planter of Northern Illinois
received a letter despatch from Francis sent
by the manager of the Francis Com
signifying announcing that he had
tried to reach Chesterbroun but
even found all approaches to it

3234
covered with impassable debris
flying far by the wind storm and
the town enveloped in queerly mingled
colored dust and not approach it.
The United States Senator I know not
his name now who is referred in the
despatch from So. Halle as having probably
been in Chesterbroun at the time of the
disaster is the President of the General
National Supreme Council and also local
legislative body of the city of Chesterbroun.
He has never been heard of or
seen since.

On the same day the United Consul
I do not remember his name telegraphed
the United States Department from So.
Halle that great consternation prevailed
in that locality in consequence of the
approach of the wild "Mad as a March hare"
but however it tore up eighteen blocks
only side-sweeping the rest. A strange
very loud noise was heard continuously
which were ascribed to the noise of the
storm as it was too loud to hear the
sound caused by the wrecking of the
building. Yet so wild was the storm it
is said it hurled the wreckage of the
destroyed buildings all over the city and
beyond its south side.

Telegraphic and telephone and all rail -

3235 communication with even so
Sally were broken in every single
direction. He was informed that many
thousands of people had been killed from
Johnson all the way to Indiana, especially
from little kids.

New Yorkers who have friends or near
relatives in Chesterbourn or also Chesterbourn
to Sally and even as far as Janeville.
I am passing a good number of days in
severe agony of suspense, fear and grief.
One of these is Carl Staley an em-
ployee of the Seaboard National Bank of
New York.

Mr. Staley was born in Chester-
bourn on the extreme east side and
lived there for twenty-one years be-
fore he came to New York to get this
job as cashier in the bank. His father
having the same name in the manager
of a large sugar estate in Kentucky
but his mother and one sister and
brother continued to live on their old
home in Chesterbourn where young Staley
visited them from time to time.

From one such visit he had
only recently returned. What their
fate has been the son, brother and
sister could only imagine.

Wholly unfitted for his duties because
of his great worries and apprehension

3236
he sat eagerly scanning
the telegraph dispatches in the news-
papers trying to find a ray of hope
from the doomed city. His wife and
children and uncle and Aunt had been there
also. In the absence of details he found very
little encouragement.

If the ruin was caused by a mere
tropical hurricane or even a tidal wave said
Mr. Staley my family, father and mother
too and many others may have escaped.

They lived at almost the extreme north
eastern edge of Chesterbourn which is known
as the Eastern Town.

Here cluster many of the most attractive
villas of the well to do for such near
idents of Chesterbourn. It lies about two
hundred yards beyond the old town which
lies along the south bank of the great
Magnolia is commonly called the west
stretch of the Tennessee River and along
the road and rail way right of way of
believe the Rock Island.

If I am not mistaken I can't see it
understand how even a storm as strong could
rip up the tracks, destroy the railroads
totally ruin such a big magnificent bridge
across the River east of Chesterbourn.
If the greatest danger has been of an
inundation far more serious than that.

3237 above the river would have had a fair chance to escape but I see that some of the dispatches describe the calamity as the greatest and most violent tornado that ever formed. The fact that so many of the strongest factories were either leveled or blown away and many people scared by the fierce heat of the wind leaves me little ground to hope that those on the eastern part of the city could have saved their lives.

Indeed as they were that much further east their peril was proportionately greater, for I read that the further east the twister traveled the worse it got.

But on the morning he received a joyful, grateful letter. It was from his father and mother, and signed by his brother and sister, and wife and children, uncle and aunt. It read as follows.

"August 16th" morning I greatly feared you my dear son was greatly apprehensive about us. I have a special friend in So. Belle who one day saved his life during a fire. I got hospitalized for five months because of the burns. I received rescuing him and his wife and children. I cannot tell or explain how grateful they were and promised to do any favor I would ask. I knew from So. Belle

it would take probably more 3238 than two weeks for even special mail to get to you in New York. He is the main head manager in the So. Belle City Post office. I went to see him, told my story and he saw to it my letter was sent on the fastest of mail trains from Moline.

I'll tell you how we were so lucky lucky to escape although I cannot tell you my son the home we witnessed until I explain this first. I and the others always had an unusual attraction to that great university near that Catholic Church and St. Ann's school which fortunately with the University were some of the thirty not in the path of that horrid storm. We were there seeing the magnificent vent right off the interior of the great building when it came.

So I'll tell to say that tornado was a most fatal and far reaching calamity nothing being able to equal it. They say that in Juneville way east of us all the town and people were swept away in a single moment and after this event ruin was wrought all the way to New York State. Kamakee got side swept, but damage was great there too, and over a hundred were killed and 2,000 injured and \$1,000,000 property lost.

3239. It is said that some parts of the river banks are squeezed together by the force of the storm and that the railroad bridge across the river was torn up by the wind and torn and twisted by the big wind and the embankment to which the bridge was attached which was Chestnut Grove bridge now appears as a sad disfigured monument to the great tornado's strength. A mishaven mass of badly tangled angles.

Stailys description of the remarkable thunderstorm before the tornado.

Late in the afternoon of the fifteenth after the strangely weather conditions during the morning the sky became unusually black with storm clouds and the first cracks of the loud thunder exploded heavily.

We were in the University then. The more distant of the thunder grew louder and nearer continually.

The thunderous noises of the coming storm which were continuous in evening the nearer it came were said to be heard a hundred miles away.

The storm finally came up with great

3240
flashes of lightning and the people were in a state of mind with fear. And I feel it was an awful terror for those who are scared of thunder storms and no matter how loud they are and yet this one was the loudest one I ever heard in my life and such a terrific downpour.

But there was no wind. I supposed the clouds labored to rid themselves of surplus moisture the much greater noise of the thunder following united in one continuous roar all evening and through the night and until the mid morning of August 15th accompanied with a steady cloud burst of rain and occasionally falling hail lag as base balls studded with midnight darkness until noon creating a feeling of fear and anxious suspense.

(Lightning) struck many places. The thrilling story I am to relate to you may as you will read with fearful interest. After the long thunderstorm quiet it still did not clear up it stayed dark and cloudy.

Finally errant clouds appeared rising majestically high and expanding in most wonderful shapes resembling enormous blue black

7246 overwhelming cauliflower-like
garden heels and black colored
flower forms all stretched across
with vivid flashes of lightning and
uncommonly loud thunder.
Just then your wife said: "another
bad thunder storm is coming when both my
grandson and granddaughter said in unison:
Oh look grandpa at that funny shape of
that big black cloud pointing on the
spoke. We all looked out of the window
towards the southwest.

What I saw I couldn't believe my
eyes. I felt I was seeing things like
a man having the effects of too
much booze. A great dark cloud
formed like a girl child's head
with bobbed hair turned sideways
towards us.

Its tongue stuck out like it was
a child being strangled, the attached
big body part was in awful
convulsions and I never believed
such noise could ever be heard
from the thunder that followed
the immeasurable lightning flash
that came from that protruding
tongue.

I knew from the desperate
struggling of the lower cloud what
was about to happen.

7247 I hope it does not hit our
city" I cried. The tongue stuck
out much further another and
worse lightning and thunder
came, the head shook from side
to side as if trying to rid itself
of the awful pressure on the throat
and then the head inclining on
bowing way downward the tongue swelled
and it fell towards the distant
horizon with a strange ball shape
at the bottom. As far as it was a
round came from it as if from a
sawmill.

The funnel suddenly swirled an
immense shroud around itself that
seemed to hiss like a hundred
million loud hissing snakes. From
a long time after that I could see
nothing but a strange shape form
and along its lower entrance it
appeared like clouds from shooting
wild explosions that rose high yet
flying far offwards and sideways
at the same time. From the time I
saw on my watch it was wiping out
Johnson.

Then a little closer to us it seemed
the lowest part the funnel opened out as
from a fearful explosion and swirled.

7247. long wall of fire seemed to
rise in the air then turning into
crazing flying clouds of all colors
seemed to burst and spread in all
directions and be flying in an awful swift
forward movement. Hearing the awful report
of this kind of scattering explosion
and seeing at that distance the great
strange shattering wall approaching
one and some of my companion visitors
in the University sought shelter
wherever it was possible jumping
down the steps, running into rooms
and even into clothes closets.

I shouted "Come back it won't hurt Chester even at all. Its the Gleason orphan asylum its wiping out"

As to, it wont hit Chester Brown

7 was very greatly mistaken
It was getting very dark and it
was starting to rain again I heard one
of my grand children say:

Mother where is all that money coming from?

Then something happened there: was
"shaking" in the air so that I or
even maybe the rest felt as though
someone had roughly jostled me.
I was looking at the distant
tornado and other looked too.

I can't describe what it was of 3244
course but my first thought was
that the end of the world would
be just like that. It was just as
though an all that part of southwestern Christen-
dom was being blown up by all the
dynamite in the world.

First of all a great fellow of cloud extended way up into the high black canopy of cloud almost still retaining the shape of the child a head turned sideways but much more monstrous in size and came roaring through the south western part of the city.

As we went to other and bigger windows the awful cloud began to roar up along side of us.

noon up along side of us. There was a louder roar and with it all the houses of the city within our view seemed to gather up and rush along before that most powerful wind. Every house big or small came roaring past. When the wreckage was passed by us and seemed like to fall into a huge cloud of downward rushing wreckage. When the wave of wreckage roared past us it took everything away before it and flung on a big blizzard of debris at the university, breaking

2345 all the southern, western and northern windows. Some debris nearly hit us who were near the windows all the time. A blizzard of debris flew everywhere the tornado was roaring and yelling bloody murder and the air was full of strange shocks.

When that unspeakable horror passed and I looked to see what it had done so quickly the sight was terrifying. I was at or near St Pierre when the volcano wiped that city out and I saw all that was done there. The town was gone and in its place was a long stretch of gray smoking flaming ruin. All about us the ships were sunk or aflame and between us and them and the shore dead bodies floated singly or in groups. But all that can't compare with all this horror at Chester Brown. What was done at St Pierre took fully three minutes. What was done here by the tornado took a few seconds.

And the wrecking was much more complete. Enough my dear has already been revealed to indicate that the very worst anticipations as to the results of this mighty twister

are absolutely realized. There 3246 who even at night doing rescue work by the light of lamps or lanterns report that the streets and all the neighborhood around what a few hours ago was a large and most prosperous city of this part of Illinois are now covered with strewn debris and scattered bodies of the dead in all directions.

All the dead and three quarters of all the injured being found and rescued thus far are stark naked their clothing having been stripped from them like so much tissue paper by the wind while they themselves were flung every which way to their deaths.

In the vast majority of instances the way they were so violently flung by the speed of the squall seems to have been the sole cause of death.

Great numbers of the bodies have also been hurled asunder by the terrific force of the wind and lie dismembered.

Every body had stamped on their faces an expression of indescribable terror. The total number of dead and injured will not be estimated for weeks. The disaster itself took place within thirty seconds.

3247 and in that half minute the vast majority of all these people are believed to be killed or injured and homeless. Yet it is said that the full duration of the storm was a fully minute and thirty seconds. It is also my son supposed that the twister was unusually sudden and gave no one a chance to ~~even~~ escape.

I again say my son what most horrible revelation of the havoc wrought to human life which scattered debris are yet to reveal can hardly be imagined. In all of the city not a trace of the streets that existed here can now be seen.

They are buried out of sight as were those of Pompeii. Curiously enough the face and hands of the clock on what is left of the Angel Guardian on the corner were not destroyed and the document an important record in the history of this most terrible tornado catastrophe.

The head hands of the clock had stopped at precisely ten minutes to five indicating that it was at that moment that the city was overwhelmed and laid waste and all those thousands of persons

in Chester Brown were killed 3248 injured or made homeless. How many are horribly killed it is not yet known. Our doomed city is isolated from the rest of the world.

Near the neighborhood of the great university hundreds of corpses are being found lying in all kinds of scattered attitudes showing that the victims had met death by being flung violently far.

Even of these victims near here every vestige of clothing was torn away from the bodies and in many cases the abdomens abdomens had even been torn open and skin stripped from their bodies by the intense intense strong wind. Their features depicted terrible fright and agony.

Grim bodies were hurled even where showing that death had stricken them while the crowds were vainly seeking escape from the ferocious tornado.

Because all type of railroad communications are destroyed we cannot leave Chester Brown or what little is left of it. So I send my horrible letter.

Your loving Father
Carl Italy

3249 "Indeed the awful sudden-
ness of this overwhelming disaster
in Chesterbourn gives it pre-
eminence among the greatest
tornado disasters of which we have
record" I read on. "It impresses upon
us the transitoriness of man and the
works of man."

This tremendous convulsion of the
air that produced the laying waste
of Chesterbourn and other cities and towns
with such marvellous swiftness
vividly recalls Shakespearean lines:-

"The great Globe itself, yes, all
which it inherits shall yet
dissolve." The destruction of Chester-
bourn and cities and towns all the
way into western New York State
came without forewarning or with such
brief warning as to make escape
impossible for all of the inhabitants
of these cities and towns starting

from Johnson & beyond. True. Haile
and the earliest reports of great
calamities are often exaggerated but
in this present instance it does not
appear as yet that the figures
timate of the loss of life was
overdrawn. It is certain that nothing

3250
that appeals to human pity
was lacking in the appalling rav-
age. The colonial tornado tragedy has
aroused the sympathy of the world
and effaced national boundaries for
nothing that afflicts humanity thus
grievously and most lamentably
can be foreign to us.

One other thing can be said. That
strangely formed cloud like the head of
a choked child turned sideways was really
the most dangerous cloud of all re-
cord. See what it did? It is terrifically
incomprehensible to us that such a
odd cloud from the protruding tongue
shape could produce such an unmis-
erable incomprehensible and breathing
tornado such as this.

Again I say it is incomprehensible
how such a strongly constructed
building like the Sacred Heart Con-
vent bounding school at Chesterbourn
could be so wiped out of its upper
portion and all that and all its
interiors disappear like into absolute
nothingness.

Between the brickwork and strong
steel or iron framework concrete
and masonry and no doubt on the
wood had so strongly a constructed roof.

3251 The paper continues "I read" unspeakable uncontrollable sorrow anxiety and anguish is still resulting from the inability to obtain news from Chesterbourn concerning the strange disaster of the great Sacred Heart Convent.

Inquiry among local investigators indicated that no one yet can solve the incomprehensible mystery. The suspense has resulted in the prostration of many women whose children are among those mysteriously missing.

A man whose name is Victor Bradford de Claus, Cashier of the Chesterbourn United Agency Company of this city and his cousin Henry John Claus who is connected with the Chicago American Surety Company were active in arranging for the meeting.

They were not in Chesterbourn at the time of this record breaking tornado calamity. They are still unceasing in all their efforts to obtain from St. Gall news of their children but will always be unsuccessful.

They are now fully convinced that it was utterly impossible for any

3252
of the children to have escaped from the Sacred Heart Convent or from the devastated Angel Guardian orphanage either, neither do they understand how the Sacred Heart Convent could be utterly destroyed while a considerable amount is still left of the Angel Guardian orphanage.

Made pessimistic by their full knowledge of the lay of the land about Chesterbourn they believe that the Angel Guardian Orphanage was overruled by the fate that befell the Sacred Heart Convent which really was but ten minutes later the forward progress of the storm being retarded by the terrific heated whirling motion.

All our children and children-in-laws were in the Convent said Mr. Claus and it is hard to rob ourselves of the only hope that is left to us. Still it is absolutely useless to take to ourselves what reason teaches is a delusion.

If three and a half stories of the Convent has been swept away to the four winds with all those children and inmates as has been

3253 Descried by the dispatches
then there remains nothing at
all to hope - That Angel Guardian
Orphanage must have been overcome
by the same blast of the immeasurable
tornado (Mad Cap Princess) that shrivelled
all of Chesterbourn, and the Great Sacred
Heart Convent seventeen blocks ~~or~~ north
east of the Orphanage on the north edge
of Lincoln Park (Chesterbourn) which was
wiped off the map with all the animal
lands and 300 buildings.

The Angel Guardian orphanage lies
about 17 blocks south west of the Park,
and if that strange shaped sideways
choking child head had actually
exploded itself into that sort of a
tornado, I'm surprised all Chesterbourn
had not been blown away entire
like Jannville was.

When buildings were just as strongly
constructed. Between the Angel Guardian
Orphanage and Lincoln Park, also the
Convent there is a sort of rise in
the ground about thirty five feet as
well in a blow hill beyond, but the
wild cat storm which is fiercely
and savagely swept through the
city would have first reached
the hill and lost some of ground

before reaching the Orphanage. 3254
why either didn't check it or
turned it aside but let it climb up
and down there is a mystery also.
even the contour of a large high built
cross roads didn't ^{turn} aside. It was so
strongly built that you could not imagine
how toughly it was constructed on all
the tough mix up material and heavy
iron beams used to build it.

Get the tornado in striking it was
not turned aside or checked. It did the
same to the cross roads as it did to
the upper floors of the Sacred Heart
Convent.

No matter how far you would
follow it, of course you can find no
trace of the iron beams even.
It has been impossible for us
in Chicago to fully realize the
terrible calamity that has befallen
us at home, my Cousin and I
were in Chesterbourn last year.

"In the island I left my
wife and children, sister, grand parents
brother and Aunt and many other
near other relatives.

I ~~was~~ even left my parents
in Chesterbourn thinking they would
be safe. I'm a prominent architect

3255 a chief constructor also. I'll have to say without boasting and I have to prove it I helped in the construction of the convent. It was built in the year 1898 beginning in the month of June. It wasn't finished until 1905. The cause of the material used only the flooring of the structure was of wood. It took three years to construct the roof.

I don't remember what was all used to construct the building but I still have all the evidence to prove this incident.

We had that on the street floor for personal use what was left of it 100 sticks of dynamite.

Through accident or carelessness it was exploded, and besides running only the glass of all the first floor window it did not even tear up the strong wooden flooring. Fortunately the beautiful Chancel window had not been put in yet. That awful explosion having no effect on the Convent showed how strongly it had been constructed.

I believe this explosive tornado had more power than a million pounds of dynamite, and yet that which exploded on the building were only one hundred sticks.

There could have easily demolished 3255 all of the Royal Gorge up-hange on level it to the ground, at first we were all too stunned to get at this horrible news. But now we know the full extent of our loss and we will do what we can to lessen the effects of the blow.

A meeting will be held here in a few days to discuss the matter and if possible find out what caused the tornado cloud to assume such an unusual uncanny shape. I've heard when tornado clouds take on very odd crazy shape their fury is incomprehensible and of the most dangerous kind.

They simply run wild and crazier than their formation. The call to this strange and most important meeting will be issued by the very Mayor of Chicago here who is regarded as the leader of all who know about the craziest forming of all tornado upper clouds.

There will be about 225 now in New York, 100 from Burlington New Jersey and five hundred in Boston who will come to this meeting. All are very well informed.

Steps will be taken to give all such information at the meeting as can be furnished. We will too

3256 Thank all the men experienced
heads of all weather departments
and tornado experts as well as some
learned men of the State Government
of Illinois to come to this unusual meet-
ing for prompt steps must be taken
if possible to render aid in solving
the mystery of the strangling cloud-head
and which such a dangerous excitable
excitable tornado so suddenly came
from.

It seems it has come from all
excitable and fury of hell. Such crazy
shaped clouds are exceedingly dangerous
when forming into tornados but this
one broke all time record.

I want to correct the impression
that prevails here that warning was
not given by the tornado of the coming
destruction the tornado was about to
to work in Chesterton. If we
or if it was heard here good, and
also as far as St Louis what do
they call that. We had letters from
all our relatives now all dead
which were written in late as August
14th. In all of the letters is men-
tioned of their terror of the record
breaking thunderstorm of the late
afternoon, all night untill mid-

morning of the 15th. They 324-7
feared because of the record breaking
thunderstorm with its all night cloud
burst that some great calamity was
to come. All tornados whose large crazy
shaped clouds are considered most
dangerous in the extreme but none
can be compared to such a twist
as this I am sure that my relatives
wife and children had recognized
recognized their danger for it gave ample
warning of its approach but I believe
they were too frightened to judge a
thing. I hope this great meeting when
it is in session will be a great
success and solve the mystery.

But all accounts agree that the first
of the tornado cloud assumed that odd
crazy shape five minutes before the
catastrophe. I wonder how the meeting
will turn out.

There is one awful heart breaking
incident of this Convent Calamity that I
will have to relate according to the
proper descriptions. There had been ~~boys~~
twelve children six girls and six ~~children~~
with their instructor and singing leader
were the most beautiful voiced and
expert child singers ever heard any-
where. But they would only sing in

3259 Catholic Church choir, at at Ched
They miss new year's and Easter special.
They had traveled from city to city,
town to town and so on, and did all
their beautiful ringing anywhere without
charging a cent, yet they were well provided
for by their well to do, but very unusually
pious parents, some of whose older children
had become priests, brothers or nuns.

These children planned to become
nuns, brothers or priests when they
grew up.

Their best religious entertainment of
still more expert singing was in New
York, Boston, Cambridge, Chicago & San Francisco,
Los Angeles and New Orleans. They
were looked on as holy child angels.

Used by the head sister of the Sacred
Heart Convent they got an invitation to come
and sing in the entertainment room there.
I wrote to say so they never got the
chance.

They disappeared with the rest. The
mother of ^{two} of them came from Chicago
to learn of their fate and was among
the throngs outside of Chester Brown for
a long time. Her health and mind
were ruined by the strain. She is now
a sort of invalid in the Sunnyside
County. The hospital. It is feared the

3260
from woman will never recover
and yet may die from the shock
of her loss. (very) thing is being taken
to give such aid and comfort to the
suffering woman. Women can be
done, but the doctors think her case is
hopeless and she has not long to live.

Because of this many are using names,
which against the lawyers, which you'll
never find in a Dictionary or prayer
book. Still others blame God for the
disaster.

He has always been blamed for things.
He is not responsible for."

I broke in by saying "When I
get the chance I must see the poor woman."
"Maybe the doctors or nurses won't permit
you" he said.

They can't refuse me as I'm in full
authority here" I answered tartly. "Besides
I may be some help to her. I'll bring
Dorothy, Angelina and Dot with me. They've
yet to let me see her or else—"

"So I will" he said. On the morrow his
leaves continues. One of the greatest
tornado calamities in history therefore
has not only fallen upon Chester Brown
but caused countless second breaking heart
breaks everywhere. It is said everybody
in this country loses of loved ones, or

3261 not are still crying bitterly
others here from their loss all the
others in sympathy. The Consul
of the United States at Chicago has
has telegraphed from there under date
of the sixteenth that the awful disaster
was complete, that the three cities, Chester-
town, Chesterhire, and Janerville, had ceased
to exist and that the mayors of these
three places and their families have per-
ished. He is informed that the number
of people killed at Chesterhire and
Janerville are not known, the entire
population of both are annihilated and
Janerville disappeared like the most of
the Sacred Heart Convent.

Thousands are said to have been
homeless, but not hungry as much.
Provisions came into La Salle from
train routes through Moline as to for
supply the city with the big over-
crowding of the goods,
so there is no need of it as
all kinds of provisions came so over-
generously and that the need of trains
for the work of supply and rescue
no comparatively required came very
promptly. Trains came also for
the removal of transportation all from
the stricken region who wished

to leave. I lag everywhere in 3262
cities and towns even the Capitol and other
buildings in Washington as well as all
residences that could fly them
are still flying at half mast because of
the disaster caused by "the mad cap Prince"
Fortunately members of two families of
New Orleans were lost in the Chestertown
disaster.

Many years ago a considerable number
of people came to Chestertown from New
Orleans and the relatives of these families
have sons, daughters, daughters and other
relations in Chestertown. It was said that
there was no hope that they were
saved or escaped, I myself could make
a statement of many incidences in re-
gard to the tornado, which I've read
was very similar to that of the Omaha
tornado and was probably caused by
the slackening of the downward movement
of wind or column from above.

A professor by the name of Wm.
Fred Scott has spent considerable
time in the study of tornado outbreaks
and is considered an authority on the
subject. My children had told me
that the Professor came to their
classroom by the invitation of the
Mother Superior in St. Patrick's school.

3263 on Miami Street. He said
Tornadoes are all crazily wild
and dangerous but the evidence
gleaned from the newspapers is
both contradictory and inclusive.

Describers of tornadoes claim the twister
has too violent currents, one downward
around the whirl, and a much stronger
upward-pulling current which is called
the suction.

The violent downward current is called
the controller. If too much power is
descending it can retard the twister some
times killing it.

The less the downward current, the
more dangerous the twister becomes as it
then has no control. These type of
tornadoes are of the explosive type similar
to this Chester town low. However, but
different in the nature of the wind
cat-fury produced.

They say also what the tornado
may suck up to a proportion that
is almost too much wind to
allow downward suction become partially
checked, the upper in the high part
of the funnel overburdensome and
solid and the tornado we come,
doubly dangerous. The same with
our Tornado. Remember what it

sucked up raging like hell 3264
through Chester town. The
further it went the more downward
current it lost, then it got so wild
it wiped out Chester chire and Jareville
annihilating their entire population.

In the case of this mad cap tornado
the explosive force of the storm was
great enough to sweep or reduce to
dust and disappearing debris the small
city of Jareville and also the upper part
of the Sacred Heart convent was blown
to nothingness with every one in it
too.

The sudden suction of all the lighter
debris into the lower part of the funnel
cutting off much of the downward current
is also the only explanation worthy on
the present evidence of why the winds of
the twister had such fiery heat.
Cooling downward currents could have
prevented or controlled that.

The tornado's savage fury is very
peculiar in that such heat on the
wind were produced. A force as great
as this tornado had, it is a wonder
the winds didn't reduce all the brick
buildings to one powder or dust.

It has been said by many tornado
experts as what also the Professor

3265 told the children that the downward current of the twister is at of controls the wild speed of its whirl. If the downward current is even only slightly slackened, the tornado loses control of itself and whirls faster. The more it loses of the downward current, and the more the upper part of the current stays in the above parent cloud the much wilder the speed of its whirl.

It then becomes exceedingly dangerous and the more further it will travel. I remember a tornado that originated in the State of Missouri Jefferson City and traveled from there clear across the country tearing its way even into the Ocean without stopping. All that way the destruction it committed was never estimated and the loss of life was terrible.

It was a tornado that almost lost its descending current. It is a mistaken idea that tornados only travel 50 miles. If they do, then those get too much descending current. A thunderstorm has a descending current and upward current too. If too much descending current is lost in that storm it becomes also a tornado,

The tornado with the longest 3266 funnel are the most dangerous of all as the downward current has an awful struggle to get down. "I must now close."

"I readon,"

All the latest reports from So. & all the one of the newspapers tend to confirm and emphasize the horror of the terrible blow that has fallen upon every place in the tornadoes path. No such appalling disaster distinguished by the suddenness of the blow the number of the victims the completeness of the desolation has ever come home to the civilized world with so overwhelming and harrowing a force.

It appears from late news that the loss of life from Chesterdown to Jamerville will be much greater than at first reported.

Jamerville with its 2500, was completely wiped off the map and it is probable that if the population of Chesterdown and off the other preceding towns many if not the majority have perished. In Chesterdown it is said thousands of persons have lost their lives and Chesterdown and the other cities have been laid waste. In large part all farms and plantations

3268 In its path have been upsed
out, stock, stock have been killed
all crops destroyed and the means of
subsistence have been wrested from

the people. In all the full living
course of the winter fifty thousand
persons are believed to be homeless
and So. Dak. also a sufferer is incap-
able of providing even for its own
self. The need of assistance is most
urgent and the prompt action of the
roundabout trains in taking measures
to give instant relief will receive
universal commendation.

Very great indignation against the
main Superintendent of the St. Gleason orphanage
grows. It is remembered that while
the twister was threatening and giving
warning of the coming disaster it was
about to work the superintendent did not
believe it was a tornado and refused to
permit any exodus from the path of
the twister.

He will have much to explain to
the authorities when he recovers from
his injuries. His wife confirmed
her own statement that he would
not believe her either.

The foolish superintendent
thinks no tornado could or would

hit the Gleason Orphanage prevented 3269
any one from leaving for the
large cyclone later near by. Even
though the storm was then approaching
with all its crazy noises he remained
in his office. He believed the relative
position of the territory around the orphanage
could affirm the security of the most
expensive building in the world was
complete and yet this did not allay
the fears of the frightened children or all
other inmates.

Even U.S. mar famous palace in
the emerald city of Oz had not
all the splendor of the Gleason Orphanage
or the expensive velvetong. Most
of all the richest orphans had, sent
to them by their rich relatives. Where
is it now?

Blown to the four winds with
everything it contained. There was
one survivor of this Gleason Orphanage
who happens to be its gardener. He
confirmed previous statements as to
the carelessness of the Head Superior
and of the awful suddenness of the awful
catastrophe. He said he thought that
an enormous spray which was liberated
in the winter producing the greatest
atmospheric pressure even on record which

3270 overwhelmed everything and carried all before it. I warned the superintendant but he too stood and said the formation of the landscape would turn it aside. I saw I believe fourteen strange luminous points in the funnel above the big shroud. I yelled to him "its coming save the kids before it is too late" but he called me a worry wart.

I had an impression of being violently drawn towards the oncoming storm by a strange powerful current of airwards it.

I had the chance and ran for the underground shelter and was half way down the steps when the tornado exploded at the orphanage. Then all soon disappeared into dust, it got too dark to see anything any more but it did not hit where the underground shelter was or anywhere near it.

Had he listened to advice and got the kids down there in time they all would be alive and safe to ^{pay} ~~they~~. Being head of the asylum, he was responsible for the care and safety and will have to answer to the authorities if he happens to recover. Business is still suspended at St. S. S. S. S.

The people of that also town city are still mourning in all the churches

and the cathedral where special 3271 high masses are being held for the tornado dead have been thronged to their utmost.

I read on. Many strange and incomprehensible incidents are recounted at Chester Brown. The remains of a scorched woman, done by the heat of the storm and with her long hair braids wrapped awfully tight around her neck were seen found there. The strongest man in the world could not have wrapped the braids so tight around her throat like the tornado did.

It could not even be cut loose with the sharpest razor. The naked scorched bodies of young girls have been found with even their shoes torn from their feet. The path of the tornado instead of its forward motion being a zig zag, is marked out in a strange manner.

It followed the contour of both railroad and river in its devastating course. Through Chester Brown the railroad track being for great lengths being wrapped up from the railroad bed like ropes and also left few traces of ties behind. It ripped and shattered all or everything in its passage along

3272 the right of way and destroyed many valuable boats on the river. Shocked by the news of the disaster at the Gleason asylum which had destroyed the beautiful and exceedingly expensive building, Gamma John Hamblan the chief Superintendent lay silent and amazed in his bed of agony. He had lost his daughter, but his wife survived.

"We were in charge of the most beautiful building in the world said Mrs Hamblan. The entertainment rooms were filled with the most valuable curios and mementoes of the country which even many millions of dollars cannot replace.

Even all the children clothing never seen in the best dry good store and most beautifully furnished rooms there as if living in a palace of heaven there. Omega palace with all its grandeur and beauty could not be compared to it.

All these are swept away. I was also seriously injured. I told my husband what was going to happen but he wouldn't believe it would be the asylum. He said it was protected by the information of the territory."

Mrs Hamblan was so overcome

by what had happened that 3273? he could not talk yet he wrote down a confession stating it was his fault that he put too much trust in the formation of the grounds west of the asylum and is fully willing to face his investigators when he has recovered.

The Gleason orphanage was situated directly opposite where the town of the same name lay and was the most prominent architectural feature of this large town which was only recently swept by the storm.

It was built at the cost of all the millionaires in the world a whitest most expensive stone ever found and with its two high towers in which bells were hung for its Lutheran chapel was sharply contrasted against the green background of its magnificent grounds.

The railroad line and river was also north of it. At this point though none of the rails or ties were left and the rail bed was frightfully torn up as if done by mighty dynamite explosions.

The orphanage its big school house and the entertainment building

3274 where traveling companies of most expert show actors played before enthusiastic child and attendant and other orphanage employee audiences free, the delightful large playgrounds were never seen anywhere else.

There were probably the largest and best buildings for orphanage structures in the whole country. The upper and fancied shaped roof of the buildings were the most attractive feature of the buildings.

Every inmate and employee were more than usually proud of the asylum. Even it stood as a point of interest and admiration for asylum visitors. Even all children who had no relatives, refused to allow themselves to be adopted. They loved their orphan too much to leave it saying to the would be adopter they will stay there as long as they live.

There has always been plenty of evidence of it being a very strongly constructed building, and that caused the easy going State trustees and other officials to believe the building was almost tornado proof, its extreme beauty and magnificent shape and size only gave it added value of a brilliant show place, the banner of

it never being destroyed by 3274. Tornado were never taken seriously of course it could be truthfully said that this tornado was an immeasurably strong one and probably other type of the common tornado could not do this. If that was true the building was incomprehensible strong. But still others could have done terrible damage as it is said no building no matter how strongly built could resist a twister.

It is said the bigger and stronger the building the worse it will get it because of its size the strong tornado has a tougher grip on it.

It is evident after it formed that the "madcap Princess" had been gathering strength and the mighty forces were being at work as it roared forward. Yet its forward movement was somewhat retarded by its fierce electric motor like whirl and that would have given everyone a chance to escape to the underground cellar had the Asylum head heeded the warning.

Yet it was perfectly evident that these warnings of the coming horrible disaster that was to come did terribly alarm the children of the asylum.

3275 and they had screamed and begged to be allowed to go down into the underground shelter. When some started for it in their terror he drove them back into the playgrounds saying: "What are you so scared of? Don't be cowards. It is not going to hit here. Take courage. See I'm staying out here defying it and the worst it can threaten to do here."

It took his challenge. When it struck head on every body of the asylum or in its playgrounds had no chance of escape. They were caught as fish in a net. The only way was the underground cellar, and that offered nothing as no one could reach it in time. They didn't have a ghost of a chance to get away or head for it.

What happened when the "Madcap Princess" hit here may be related later, but everybody in Gleason town who knew the asylum and its inmates can easily imagine the scene of the most wild horror that must have been enacted when the excitable and terror stricken children and all employees realized that escape was impossible.

Albert Mores proprietor of the Henry Winton estate which 3276 is situated 1700 yards southeast of the big Gleason Town arrived at 8 a.m. in an interview he gave a graph, graphic description of the tornado that overwhelmed the Gleason asylum and destroyed so many of its inmates.


About four o'clock in the afternoon of August 15th he was in a cornfield on his estate when he heard a most extraordinary noise extraordinary than any noise he heard in all his life.

He said he could not describe the noise to save his life. At the same moment he heard the sound he saw a huge black cloud the shape of a child's head turned sideways and from the where there was still a partially open mouth there was a long black funnel cloud in frightful commotion traveling slowly towards Gleason town. As the cloud traveled with ungovernable incomprehensible fury he saw terrific flashes of lightning and heard numerous explosions of loudest thunder he ever heard in his life as if all the whole fleet of warships of all the nations on the whole world were firing a tremendous bombardment in that one spot. He saw it strike a more glancing blow at

3277 the northwest part of Gleason town, then like a drunken man stagger away ~~was~~ went on a long curve and came out of its original run and to his horror heard a shout for the Gleason Asylum yelling like a legion of demons.

Just previously the air had been very calm. At the same moment that he saw it head for the Gleason Asylum he felt a strange vortex of hot air which he likened to an express train whirling past a station.

Immediately he saw trees in a space of one hundred yards long and fifteen wide hurled to the ground by the unseen force seeming to rush towards the twister. A terrible midnight darkness came on preventing him from seeing what was happening at the

Gleason Asylum, but there was a most tremendous tumultuous roar and other hoarse noises at the same time as if a volcanic eruption was taking place at the Gleason Asylum. Dark lightning played incessantly over the disturbed section of the huge clouds. He believed the flashes averaged from sixty to a hundred a minute and there was a tremendous continual roar of thunder that  wouldn't stop. The radi-

Additional horror was excited 3278 by what I could not see or hear. This terrible destruction could be seen from Chemo twenty one miles and in fact the funnel was visible forty miles away.

As soon as the appalling uproar receded off towards the northeast, I ran towards the Gleason Asylum but encountered heavy showers of extremely varied colored dust showers and a blizzard of falling debris of all sizes and I was almost suffocated.

The atmosphere was so dense that I could see nothing I turned around and went south for twenty minutes before it was comparatively clear of the shower of strange dust. I then put back towards where the Gleason Asylum had been and encountered more dust and debris and was again compelled to put off.

I arrived in Gleason at about five o'clock in the afternoon. Gleason was covered with three inches of dust and still falling showers of debris. I was almost still as too dead dumb to head for the Asylum. At first the people of Gleason town had fled, though the tornado was now some distance to the northeast.

1279. There was from it even then a continuous roar ever since it left the Gleason district. I saw through the north northwestern section of Gleason town had been completely destroyed. It was impossible to proceed beyond that point also on account of the street thickly strewn debris.

A huge broken house of wood was observed in the center of a street where previously there had been no such a house any where in Gleason before.

Sixty persons are said to have been killed while trying to get away. The best and strongest buildings in this part of Gleason town were demolished or ruined by the tornado.

In Northwest Gleason it is impossible to say how many people have really been killed or injured but the number will probably run into the hundreds. Of it struck only a glancing blow but more buildings nevertheless were wrecked or demolished than was at Omaha by the Eastern twister there. It and others now following me left Gleason at six o'clock but a quarter past we from various sources received a message that the trip was impossible nevertheless we proceeded on our way.

Yet still it was impossible to get

close to the territory of the 3280 Gleason Asylum. The falling dust and debris still obscuring everything. The streets of Gleason was littered with broken orchard and other trees, farm products and other wreckage, and not from any building of Gleason either. We again attempted to proceed through the falling muck of motor dust and wreckage but found it impossible.

It meant suffocation to try it. Where was all the dust coming from. We returned and entered the belt north east of Gleason but there was the same result.

Even on the horizon there was nothing to be seen but falling colored dust and wither muck and wreckage which were piled up like an enormous wall.

Near the belt all was dark. Where did the tornado suck all this up from and sending it far out from the main whirl above let it come down in such a suffocating dust storm.

We went back and worked our way to the north. Opposite Gleason we then countered a gale of wind carrying dust and debris. Far away to the southwest the sound of another thunder storm was approaching. The far distance was ablaze with the reflection of lightning.

3286 The gale evidently from the storm. To the northwest the entire territory of the district devastated was clearly visible. When we were now close to where the Gleason Asylum had been we saw no sign of life. The vast playground looked like a vast junk yard with the trash scattered far and wide. We believed that every person children and all within the devastated area perished.

Some tell me that the relative position of the sun and moon at an angle of forty-five degrees was said as they tell me by Hugo Clements the Chief Scientist to have been the cause of the eruption of Mt. Pelée on the island of Martinique.

Mr Clements said that this relative position of the sun and the earth satellite occurred at exactly ten minutes to four thirty on the afternoon of August 15, the time when the extraordinarily severe tornado began to take form.

The immense fire on the earth's atmosphere by the tangential position of the two bodies was acted fully upon the atmosphere and caused the colder currents from the northwest to rush much too swiftly into the long severe hot weather of August,

The cold force was enough to be 3.286 causing the hot air of the hot wave to rise too suddenly into the upper atmosphere between the other two storms and caused the blowing up of the upper atmosphere. The Galveston disaster and the St Louis and Omaha calamity the points out-occurred when the sun and moon were in a similar position to catch each other. The same thing caused the Lisbon Earthquake.

Also the awful earthquake that destroyed Messina and Southern Italy on December 1908. It is said by many earlier witnesses that the tornado whirled way much too fast, to travel forward more than twelve miles an hour, might, so slow for one, as a tornado is said to travel 25 to 30 miles an hour.

So this proved, that the distance the twister was at the time, all the children and inmates could have been sharded into the large underground cellar way in time for safety if it was not for the foolish heed of the Asylum and his crazy stubbornness.

Because of the strange contour of the land and fields west of the Asylum and low steep rising ground, he believed the tornado would steer off and pass Gleason and the Asylum altogether. It did

3282 not over off and but northwest Gleason bounced off and crashed through the Gleason amphitheater properly at Gleason town itself. ~~3283~~ ³²⁸² were made homeless. While from this 32500 buildings were more or less damaged many of these being churches and schools buildings and a four story convent called the School of Our Lady of Angels.

Eight of Gleason's public schools were wrecked. All forms of communication were annihilated by the "mad Cap. princess" wind.

The destruction began with the millions of homes in the extreme west and northwest Denton and Manate districts but farther northwest the buildings collapsed more easily and a large number of deaths resulted.

The storm took away all the telephone and telegraph wires with the poles in its path and the electric power was shut off immediately to prevent further loss of life.

The stretch of Gleason covered by the tornado reaches from the Southern border to the suburb near the Gleason Asylum six miles north of the front of killing.

The storm swept the Northwestern front of the city for its entire length following the southwest contour of

the grounds bounded off by the 3283 Asylum superintendent extending along the Rock Island roadbed and Magonian River. The rest of the city composing the business section was out of the path of the storm but suffered greatly from the flying wreckage flung so far.

The residential portion was the most damaged though a number of outlying business thoroughfares were also in the region of destruction. The greater part of the damage was done north of North Avenue a west and south cross road street extending the entire length of the northwest portion of the city.

Numerous streets with retail stores are in this section with the residential portion of Gleason City scattered in intervening sections.

Many of the best parks of the city are located within the district covered.

Hombolt park situated near where the storm first came on was greatly damaged and Jackson Park Park one of the show places of the city was struck with such force as to practically wipe it out.

The storm almost came without warning no part of the area

3284 area covered by the storm is located between Western Avenue on the west and West Webster on the north and from West Fullerton Ave to 3rd Avenue further north. This is the most richest district in the city thickly populated and contains ten of the largest public schools. Many of the large churches of all denominations are also in that part of the city.

Gleason University was in the path of the storm and totally wrecked. But no fires were reported. This and the fact that a second thunder storm followed the blow soaking the debris prevented any fires.

I saw myself that all electric light and trolley wires were carried away by the storm and the power had to be shut off in the devastated districts so that all work in the night had to be done by the light of lanterns and only then an imperfect idea of the extent and character of the damage could be formed.

The work of rescue which at once was undertaken and which I too joined in was also very slow because of the darkness and the

blocked streets. Emergency 3285 engines and hospitals were established at various points and all available physicians and nurses pressed into service. The City Health Commissioner appealed to surgeons of the Gleason City to volunteer their services for the relief of the injured and the response came in scores.

The worst damage done and the the largest toll of lives was exacted in the extreme northwest part of Gleason city in the vicinity of Parkway Avenue and Mayolia River Street and from there northeast to Dorem and Hasted Streets. This also is the residential portion and the destruction though it was called a glancing blow wrought was well nigh appalling.

Whole blocks of homes were picked up and dashed into a shapeless mass. Street cars were hurled from the tracks and demolished.

Among the show places of Gleason city which received the beneficent effect of the storm was the Gleason Castle, where the roof was torn off and all the trees and shrubbery carried away.

3286 The convent of the Poor Clares at Halsted and Beldon was razed the roof swept away and the grounds were also littered with wreckage from other buildings.

From the Humane Field Club which is on the northwestern part of Gleason city to the John Carter Club situated at the northeast extremity is one mass of debris twelve blocks wide.

The Sacred Heart Convent one of the finest Catholic Schools next to the one on Chester-brown was directly in the path of the storm and was totally demolished. Not one person in the building escaped death or injury.

It was the next morning before all the details of the storm with accompanying wreckage were known even within the city itself. The pathway of the storm from eight to twelve blocks wide and a width of twenty four blocks long.

The total number of deaths in this part of Gleason City reached almost sixty five.

Within the storm centre would cover a quarter section of land 7,200 homes were wrecked and more

than 150 bodies were recovered. 3287
Estimates of the value of property demolished by the storm in Gleason City alone are estimated at \$24,000,000. Some of the more substantial buildings are to be rebuilt but their number is small, and where the buildings have not been torn around it was found that they have been so twisted that even the material was useless for rebuilding.

Eight Public Schools were demolished seven churches were leveled and one private school for little girls received the same as the upper parts of the Chester-brown Sacred Heart Convent although the little students escaped before it was struck. On North Halsted Street every house was leveled with the ground and the debris scattered far and wide.

Three thousand refugees made homeless by the tornado were fed in school houses which also held many of the injured. The groans of the dying mixed with the lamentation of those who lost loved ones.

A strange thing about this awful disaster was that Gleason City

3288 destruction was kept secret from the world for many hours by the storm for all wire communications were swept away in the wrenching of the houses. messengers had to go to Beoria to give the first definite news of the disaster.

The rescued injured on account of the debris which blocked the streets had to be carried three blocks to reach ambulances and automobiles awaiting them.

The scene was like at Sumner but much worse. No one can compare the heart's anguish which was noticed during the putting away of so many bodies. I saw whole families lay dead away to gather brothers and sisters who were separated forever, husbands and wives torn asunder, many children turned into orphans and parents made childless because all of us mourned him whom we claim all wisdom, power and glory cannot ever cope with the angry storm, nor quell them by any ray of supplications at their command. (As I learned later the heart ache could not end with the burial of the victims.

of this awful storm Hail 3288? Ship and tribulations follow in the wake of such devastation. People must be housed, clothing provided and food supplied to those left homeless through the whim of a "breeze". The shattered telegraph wires must be replaced, debris removed, and money raised to carry on work nurses and soldiers and doctors must give of their services that those who suffered injury may be made strong and whole to continue the battle of life.

So readjustments must soon be accomplished. When I had arrived on the scene by early morning most of the bodies had been removed by the hundreds of rescuers who worked all night with lanterns, but I frequently came across bunches of persons gathered about a corpse and waiting for the ambulance.

Thomas Do Nolan with his family was assistant Superintendent at the Gleason Asylum for fifteen years. Their friends and relatives were distressed by the probable fate of Mrs Nolan his wife two daughters and one son Messrs James Nolan and Christine Nolan and Young Tom Thomas.

3290 Two Adult sons James Andrew and Michael Nolan were not with their parents Mrs Alice Angela Nolan Johnson, a sister of Mrs Nolan was in Chicago. She intended to go to the Gleason Asylum a month ago to get a job as Matron but there was no vacancy fortunately for her. She received this letter from the Assistant Presidents wife:

"My dear dear sister This morning the whole population of Gleason City is on the alert and every eye is directed towards this morning's unusually severe reced breaking thunder storm. This afternoon everybody is afraid that some thing dreadful about to happen, than a strangely odd shaped child like head close is going to take its into its heart to burst forth and destroy the whole city and territory.

All the brave inhabitants are going up on house tops and other high places to see it At quarter to four P.M.

I was in my room of the Asylum with little Christine and I we heard a unusual shock. The noise was so great that dishes were thrown from the shelves and the house

was completely rocked and 3290 windows cracked. We flew to the window. There was a noise like the wrenching of many building, or being torn and rended to pieces.

We couldn't see because it was getting so dark what was happening but Christine saw by her mind what was wrong and cried:

"We let get to the underground cellar before it is too late. It's heading for us."

I called to my husband to follow us, but though he assured me that there is no immediate danger, he didn't like the look of the big shadow coming towards us and I'll have to say he beat us to the cellar. I surely believe there is power in prayer" and she vividly wrote how when the raging winds were wiping out the orphanage buildings the prayers of her self and her son and little daughters who were in the underground cellar were heard.

The funnel shaped bomb passed close to them but did not strike or tear over the cellar territory. "Yet the cellar shook like a leaf and the cement ground floor cracked

3292 under our feet as the tornado swept by us devastating the famous Asylum. "Oh the poor kids" I thought while the winds howled as loud as thunder outside while the Asylum was ^{very} strewn away and while the play grounds were being wiped out and wires being away we knelt in the cellar and prayed.

For half an hour we stayed in the cellar praying most of the time for deliverance from the cyclone. The more of the storm was most horrible and after more than a minute duration slowly went off howling like in abject misery towards the north east. After it had lasted thirty two seconds it sounded like a million dogs howling at the same time and higher up was a deafening humming sound like a million big fans all joined together and then reverberating over the territory.

When we finally emerged from our refuge we couldn't see what happened to the asylum because it was so dark and so much dust in the air.

We waited for the morning but then there was nothing there

with nothing to see except 3294 some log iron girders in the grounds which had been twisted like string and which had never been there before. The sight that met our eyes of the disappearance of the Asylum and everything else was most terrifying. There were no trees left yet on the twisted iron girders hung bed clothing which never had been the asylum and people's clothing too.

At some distance away and here too the ground was covered with the wreckage blown this far probably from what been fine residences in Gleason. Twisted far flung wreckage of every kind were everywhere, house furnishing brought here from Gleason were everywhere thrown every which way and in the branches of what had been left of the biggest and strongest trees I saw one big tall tree still standing but stripped clean of all its branches and bark and cables were wrapped around it like a piece of rope. I saw several easy chairs and several claven pots lying in the one asylum.

3295 grounds. I don't know where they came from but we saw a large crowd of chickens perfectly alone walking about without a single feather on tail. I found a clutch that must have belonged to some farm person driven into that tall tree.

A big thrashing machine was lying on its side near the tall tree now looking like a tall telephone pole. Near it was a box car split badly and minus of its big wheels.

I know from Gleason City was really stricken or mired before but we had not the hearts to go and view the wreckage even here all were were snapped off in all directions directions and swept away and that is why it took many hours to gather and circulate news of the disaster here and at Gleason.

Spectators and sightseers are not allowed here and if they do dare to come they'll be put to work or go to jail.

I saw unusually thick trees and steel wires more than an inch around wrapped around that skeleton of a tree as if wound a thread

around in a thread spool 3296
Spectators of all sizes were driven through through that skeleton and brown straws too. of the Asylum buildings we did not even see any trace even of the foundations. But there is surely power in prayer if you have the faith and we had reached the cellar in time and we escaped."

The sequel appears in the following statement in the Chicago Morning Tribune.

James Edmund Nolan 552 Fifty fourth street son of Thomas Nolan assistant head of the Gleason Asylum thanked God most heartily that his father and another and two sisters and younger son did not perish in the disaster when which overwhelmed the City and Asylum August 15 the feast of the Assumption.

When Mr. Nolan was informed of the disaster and destruction of the Asylum he was in his apartment reading a letter from his mother written the time before the storm struck. In this was the mention of the strange odd shape of the first cloud formation in the rear of the major cloud. The letter

3297. Letter stated however that Thomas Nolan and his family had just escaped into the Gleason cyclone cellar where they would not be liable to danger from the cyclone. Mr Nolan feels that there had been plenty of warning of danger and couldnt understand why the chief surpason didnt heed it and get the children and all others and himself into the cellar before the storm hit.

Untill he heard the call of the extran. and bought a paper he had heard or knew nothing of the awful catastrophe at Gleason.

"Mother writes me on the turne of the storm's formation that they had just moved into the cellar just before it swerved off from devastating the city within their view and headed amuch for the asylum."

She got there with the rest of her family her husband in his terror beating them too it.

She wrote plenty about what she saw the next morning. In the afternoon darkness and night she couldnt see what happened. But in the morning there was nothing to be seen but

3298 wreckage of the nearest parts of the city. In town there and the line left the telegraph pole with stuff wound around it. The Asylum the other Asylum property and ground with all the children are no more they say.

These buildings were in the worst kind of territory to resist such a tornado. The buildings were within fifteen hundred yards slightly northeast of Gleason city. I have never been in Gleason city nor near the asylum" continued Mr Nolan "but I judge from what my family has written since going there that flight would have been easy to the underground cellar before the storm if the Superintendent would have sent everyone there before the wind whirled struck."

It is said that because of the contour of the land and very large rise of ground and hills, he believed the winter would be forced to turn aside and go else where. Instead it climbed the hill on a rise of ground and smashed hill bent against the asylum. I am glad my relatives escaped."

3299. As late as August 14 no fear
or expectation had been felt in
Gleason no dangerous storm could
have been seen threatening them. There
are five children in the Nolan family.
Three daughters May 12 aged 12, Helen
9, and Christine aged ten were with
their parents in Gleason at the time
of the disaster.

Two sons Thomas and George are
parents. The other and younger youngest
boy 17 years is also James Thomas.
Nolan. The latter came from Chicago
to Gleason. The parents and elder
boys were born in Tipperary Ireland
the younger in New York. The
came to Chicago in 1910. Luckily
none of the three children or their
parents were in the asylum when
the rapid twist hit.

Mme Louise Marat a teacher of
French in Lincoln Nebraska was
prostrated over the news of the
terrible disaster at Chester Brown
as her sister mother and family
resided in that city. On learn-
ing of the tornado she fainted
and was afterward said to be
in a serious prostration.
Her sister Mme Gentile Marat

and the latter husband 3700.
two sons George and Paul and
two daughters Alice and Marian
were believed to have been killed
as she said they lived in a part
of the city where they would be
exposed to the full insane force
of the storm which here left nothing
behind it.

Paul Gentile was rated as one of
the most rated and brilliant lawyers
and orators in this country and
held many prominent positions of
trust. For four years he had been
one of the representatives in the
French Chambers of Deputies in
Paris France.

For a time no trace of them
could be found in any wreckage in
the course of the storm or what was
left of the house either.

The cloud shaped like a vast amphitheatre and its funnel made a
vast sweep from Chester Brown
way beyond Danville to Terre Haute
Indiana. A very large statue of the
mother of God was hurled two
hundred blocks distant from its
base.

3301 It is intended to take such steps as may be possible looking to the relief of the survivors of the disaster caused by the unusually strong tornado and if possible representatives will probably be sent to Ches. Gleason for the purpose of gathering information regarding the fate of the relatives of the Marats.

For them unspeakable anguish has resulted from the inability to obtain news from Chesterbourn without hope that the number of victims has been over estimated - there there is even the feeling that the apparently impossible has happened.

The suspense has resulted in the prostration of Mme. Soure Marat and some others whose relatives are believed to have perished in that wild tornado. They were unceasing in their efforts to obtain from even So. Salle news of their relatives w. but were unsuccessful because of the wiping out of all communications wire railroad and bridges.

They were convinced that it was impossible for any to have have escaped from Chesterbourn to Garretts on further east.

Neither do they understand how

3302 even Gleason could have been damaged by the severe glancing blow of the storm while the Gleason Asylum was swept away clean.

Made presumptive by the knowledge of the lay of the land about Gleason they believed that the Asylum was first not in the path of the storm, but hitting Gleason the glancing blow the contact with that part of the city made it rebound off, be thrown off its regular course and be flung straight at the Asylum.

And that rebound made the tornado go crazy and become tenfold dangerous. If course only the lower part of tornado do this. The Gleason horror that occurred caused the tornado not to reverse off no more but to travel on and next wipe out Northern So. Salle with great loss of life.

So Northern So. Salle was overcome by the fate that befell the greater city lying slightly south west and the Gleason Asylum.

"All our friends and relatives were the worst hit part of Chesterbourn said Mr. Marat and we cannot rob ourselves of any hope that should be left to us. Still

3702 Still it is useless to
take to ourselves what reason
teaches is a delusion. If Chesterbrow
has been destroyed as has been
described in the newspapers then there
remains nothing for us to hope.
believe if it had only hit Gleason
and not rebound off and head for the
Asylum, So Saller and Chesterbrow
Chesterbrow would have been entirely
spared.

Chesterbrow must have been overcome
by the same blast that shrouded
Chesterchire and totally wiped out
village lying five miles away from
Chesterchire. Yet Chesterbrow lies about
thirty miles east of Buffalo Rock
and if the tornado has kept on a
straight course all the way from
So Saller destruction must have tore
through all of Chesterbrow.

From what I have read between
Gleason and the Asylum there is a
break in the earth or fields and
a descent of ground as well as a
rise of ground and this caused the
belief of the Superintendent of the
Asylum that it would turn aside the
tornado and make it go straight
to the northeast. But
it did not turn it aside, but

only made it surer in 3704
a way to hit Gleason and the
Asylum and then head for So
Saller. So the grounds only let it go
head on so it would reach Gleason
city before passing on to the Asylum.
Poor Souse. Must is hysteria of
no good news. It has been absolutely
impossible for us to believe believe
to any full realization that such a
terrible catastrophe would have befallen
us at home.

My Cousin and I were at Gleason last
year and intended to go to Chesterbrow
on a long visit beginning this month
of August. I had fortunately not a
chance in the city I left my parents
and many other relatives. We are all
too stunned to think of what happened
and we do not know what to do to
lessen the effects of the blow.

I want to correct the impression
that prevails here that warning was
given by the tornado of the destruction
this cyclone of exceeding violence
was about to work from Johnson,
all the way to New York State.

We had letters from our friends
who fortunately were in one of the
thirty one buildings not in the

3304 Terrible storm path. The letters were written on the evening of the 15th and from La Salle through Moline. In none of the letters is mention made of the threatened path of the tornado. The tornado when first seen was regarded as only following the railroad right of way and the river while tearing through north east of La Salle. North side.

The twister was regarded as to harmlessly pass by Chesterbourn. I'm sure that our friends would have recognized the danger to Chesterbourn had the twister given such warning as I have seen asserted in some of the papers.

Poor Mme Laure Marat was a teacher of French and on a vacation in that city and as I say again was terribly prostrated when she received the news of the terrible disaster. Her sister and of family who are near relations to me also were there as tourists and resided there until the touring season was to be over in September.

When we saw in the papers of the awful raging and twister she gave a shriek and swooned

and was in a serious condition for two days and six hours. Her sister Mme Gentile and her husband and two sons George and Raoul and two little daughters Alice and Anas had been believed to meet with a most frightful death.

Raoul as I believe was one of the most brilliant lawyers in France and for the past two years in this country which he had come from Paris to tour was a member of the Chamber of Deputies in Chicago.

The poor Miss Marat sat surrounded by friends almost in a heart breaking mournful trance. She would weep, moan and once in a while go into a relapse of swoon.

Every time the door bell rang she started poor thing, for her own good she was not permitted to answer the summons at all under any conditions but anxiously asked, "Is there any news?"

She with her prostration was also in a serious condition. With her were her mother and father and two sisters who were nurses and an elderly son who was a priest, and a brother who was

3306 a Dominican brother who vainly
with me also tried to cheer with
what was feared was false hopes,
they anticipated that she would not
survive her coming. heart-breaking
ordeal. The next day as she was
still sitting surrounded by her friends,
and her mother and her sister runs
and others also sat by her the door
bell rang vigorously and she started
started and rose tearfully to answer it
but her mother held her back for
she still was not permitted to answer
it for fear of still more heart-breaking
news.

She sank weeping bitterly sobbing
sadly. "Is not there any news - Oh God
please have pity. Mercy on me."

I went to the door to answer. To
myself my surprise and apprehensive
feeling four important looking men
stood outside. I could see by their
appearance and dress they were men
of authority but not of this city.

At first with reluctance I let
them in. Believing now will come
news that will tell her news.

"Are you Mrs Scout Marat?" one
of them asked as I admitted
them. I answered yes with
a great sinking of the heart.

"Is Mrs Scout Marat 3308
here?" "Yes but she is too ill just
now to see anyone. The doctor
don't believe she'll live through another
shock of bad news."

"I fortunately thought so" said the deputy.
but the news we brought is completely
contrary. May we sit down?"

"Certainly" I answered.

"We're really sorrowful over this
whole thing" the man said. "Because
the storm cut off just as much
communications at So Ball as
at Chesterbourn no news could
come even by mail as all railroad
communications are cut off by the
destruction of bridges. We came by
auto and only stopped on the
way when needing gas. We came to
tell you her relatives were not
in Chesterbourn at the time of
the storm. They were visiting in
down S So Ball and are still
there. It was they who sent us
to report on this." I jumped to
my feet in astonishment and my
heart beat fast.

"Do you really mean it, you're not
fooling?" I demanded.

"We have all the entire proof of
our report" said the other and they are

3309 on their on they on the way.
They'll reach here some time
by to. manow can we see her?
With news like this certainly.
They led them on. Her mother rose
painfully from her chair. Mrs Manat
at first looked terribly frightened at
the news she fearfully expected
to hear. It was impossible to dis-
cuss the scene that followed.

But the news I found out was
positively true.

Three days before the storm they
were already in Downtown La
Salle but because of the destruction
of all communication they did not
know for three days that even
Northern La Salle was hit let
alone Chesterbrown. They went to
view the scene at La Salle and
having come her sister's husband
said to me:

"All this unnecessary agony because
of the destruction of communications.

Because of no news could get to
you we sent the deputies. We saw
the awful havoc at La Salle
northeast.

I have often read of the awful and
most freakish things such awful
wind storms have done and wouldn't

believe it. From La Salle on 3310.
went to the deserted part of Gleason
City. I will now have to believe
anything I've read of Tornadoes or what
people tell me. Was it said the the
storm struck a glancing blow? If so it
was a big one. I couldn't believe what I
saw.

The ground was strewn everywhere with
the wreckage of fine residences for than
three blocks wide for four blocks on
either side of this swath all types of
buildings were damaged more or less.

The method of destruction was as
total as I had seen at La Salle but
for a greater much length of distance.
I could not count the number of
portions of houses that were twisted
or tumbled everywhere or estimate
the amount of house furnishings
strewn over the ground and the
branches of broken trees had some
lost.

Even fastened in trees were a few
chairs, mattresses and dozen of cushions.
I saw a dead little girl impaled
on the jagged end of a piece
of timber. Sods of dead cats and
and even dogs and horses were
lying scattered about. I saw six
live chickens with parts of their

23/1 feathers blown away. Funny, as
I had on the winter was here the
Saired Heart convent was not as much
demolished as the one at St. Salle,
and no demolished sheet can on its roof
like the one there. But St. Salle had
received nothing like Gleason City and
they call it a glancing blow.

A strange thing about this calamity
folks and relations was that at St.
Salle the disaster was not known
to us who were living downtown
for a while.

I believe it was because all wire
communications were torn away. We saw
the freaks caused by the winter in
what was left of the grounds of the
Gleason Asylum. That tall skeleton
of a tree, tree denuded of its branches
and bark and crazy stuff wrapped
around it as a string on a spool.

I heard that estimates of the value
of the property demolished by the
storm in Gleason alone are about forty
million dollars.

Many school houses were feet
out of commission. I couldn't fancy
where they came from but I
and those with me examined big
iron girders that had been twisted
like string in the of what was

left of the Asylum grounds 23/2
From there we went to Chester
town where for a time we had
lived. We couldn't believe our eyes
for the sight that met our eyes was
most terrifying. Desolation and scat-
tered ruin was everywhere.

We couldn't tell what became of
the big wooden house we had lived
in before going to St. Salle. It
was lucky we did or we wouldn't
be here to day.

From what I read the cloud was
most peculiar. When the formation
was seen the cloud was thirty five
miles south of Johnson town the
first hit and wiped out. The paper
says it resembled a girl child's bobbed
headed head turned sideways with tongue
sticking out.

The Tongue suddenly became an
awful funnel southwest of Johnson town
This horned cloud came nearer
to Johnson and raged with tremendous
fury. Longer and wider grew the
funnel increasing rapidly in diameter
until the smaller and nearest the
ground covered an area of a mile
and a quarter. Filling the air with
a curious, piercing noise as the storm

3313 as it slowly moved the storm
was reared in its work of awful
destruction though the gathering dark-
ness by passengers on a Santo &
local passenger train. But unfortunately
at this moment the train consisting
of seven coaches was too close to
the station of the town to avoid the
terror. The "tongue" struck the little
town of Johnson like you strike an egg-
shell with a sledge hammer.

Houses were blown apart or to
shattered scattering fragments as if
by big gas explosions. The town
the papers claimed became like
big cloud of dust of flying fragments.
The big long wooden railroad
station became a cloud of scattering
flying fragments.

The whole local passenger train
was blown off the track, all but the
engine, and all of the track ties and
railed was torn away.

A big double sized thrashing
machine standing near the station
was flying through one of the
coaches. Then the storm hit Gleason.
You all must have been terribly
wounded about me and the others.
I know. We tried our level best
to get news to you that we were

safe. But we could do nothing 3314
because all communications were
destroyed. Thank God we got back
here. We don't want to even
hear of another tornado again.

The fate of the Great
Secret Sacred Heart Convent
in Gleason and miraculous
escape of the inmates.

The Mother Superior one of all those who
so miraculously escaped said "At half past
three in the afternoon The ruin or Thunderstorm
cloud which had scattered so deep darkness
mess over the day even when the storm
stopped began to settle into a solid and
what you may call it into an impen-
etrable mass.

To me it resembled the thickest gloom
of night in the air or even like you were
in some narrow room with a closed
and blind darkness.

But in proportion as the blackness
gathered and a heavy rain came down
again did the lightning increase and
the thunder become louder. One big
lightning resembles a twisted snake
lighting up the whole city of Gleason
from street to street then suddenly
dying into a sickly paleness like
the ghost of its own dead reef.

33/5 In the pauses of the showers of heavy afternoon rain I thought I heard some sound like the rumbling of the earth and the roaring of waves at the same time a grinding and hissing murmurs as of escaping gas.

Soon the cloud and third thunderstorm seemed to show signs of losing its dark thickness, then the far rear part of the cloud appeared to break from its solid mass and assume quaint and vast mimickers of human and monster shapes intruding across the gloom which was slackening.

Then with a strange mumbling sound they appeared huddling one upon the other and vanishing very slowly into the abyss of shade so that to our eyes and fancies of the affrighted Sisters and employees the unsubstantial clouds were as the bodily forms of some kind of monstrous foes - the agents of terror and death.

The showers and lightning came to sudden pause, the roaring thunder receded into the distant east, the atmosphere was profoundly still, the thunderstorm appeared through with us, but gathering perhaps fresh fury for another one.

Suddenly a portion of the cloud the

darkest section in the rear became 33/6 the up shape of a little girl's head turned sideways with its tongue sticking out like one strangled.

The summit of the head seemed driven in two or above the top there seemed to rise two strange monster shapes both confronting each other as demons contending for the whole sky. There were of one deep black brownish color and three or four flashes of lightning came from the tongue which lighted up the whole atmosphere far and wide and produced the loudest thunder ever heard on my whole life time and whose shock broke all the glass in our convent windows and shook the building like an earthquake.

The strangling child head shuddered, the body slaver down became feverishly convulsed, and from it seemed to spring a new cloud into the shape of a craggy and stuporous arch from which as from the jaws of hell gushed the source of coming disaster and through the still air was heard rattling sounds as from fragments of rock hurtling upon one another as they were borne around the adumored part of the cloud, I turned to the direction of the

3317 round and what I saw caused me to grab one of the sides by the arm. Suddenly a duller shade fell over the air. Everyone us rushed to the west windows instinctively and behold the protruding tongue roared and wavered to and fro as a shriek came from the open mouth and then the tongue suddenly turned into a long funnel with a globular shape at its base and with a sound the irraghtiness of which no one can describe to save their selves it appeared to fall to the ground and rushed an avalanche of unspeakable fury of horror.

We were on the top floor of the Convent which is seven and a half story high. From there we could see Johnson town.

The town swirled into a wide convulsive cloud and everything for miles became a shroud of dust and debris.

The sudden disappearance of the town, the bursts of clouds of debris and dust and the ground shaking like an earthquake charced when we were about to leave the top floor windows.

In the streets of Gleason as I could see far down bef below there was an immense throng of

terrified terrified panic stricken 3318
people more than half of the population. Through some break of nature the under part of the main cloud seemed to retire into itself and come rolling and rolling upon itself as it advanced overhead.

I never say saw anything like the rolling of this wave of cloud behind of which was black as the inside of a cave.

It advanced like a beach comb of cloud with its top part always rolling down and under the mass and with the after part rising to an unseen height as the mass of cloud surged overhead in our direction. The lower part of the cloud seemed to blot out the middle south section of our city out of sight altogether.

There arose up an of out cry of myriads of voices. All view was cut off of the distant part of the city. Those who were fleeing down the streets were so terrified by the agitation and preternatural fury of the elements the gasping forms of the uncouth cloud and by the sounds of the huge stones swirling in the cloud overhead that they fled in haste towards the southeast. The appalling disaster

3319 exactly harrowing disaster which was to come will be fully confirmed by all details of the calamity as they slowly come to hand will pass into history as the most terrible and destructive on all record.

"Run for our deep basement" I cried.

At that moment all distant houses were tossed about in all directions into clouds of debris and dust and it seemed a great yelling whirlpool of cloud of debris was pulling upwards. When the terrible protruding tongue struck the convent and seemed to heel the monstrous building like a ship "over on her starboard side" so that if she was a ship she would lay almost on her beam ends. At that moment as the building threatened to go to pieces as if from a mighty mile wide explosion I heard a more frightfully loud and threatening.

We all just got to the deep basement in time when the full fury of the storm burst upon us I being the last to pass through the door of the basement. Basement where the other sisters the employees and the terrified household and children

3320 had already sought refuge. Barcelona had the massive door been closed and bolted then that "protruding tongue" was upon us in all its wildest insane fury. The tallest trees for a few seconds withstood and bent beneath its force and shredded to pieces bark trunk and all and all kinds of big and medium sized trees were stripped of all their branches and bark in a second time or forcibly uprooted and carried away and the roof tiles from the convent and many trees were hurled through the air.

Even then we had not received the full force of the blast for the houses across the street served as a sort of screen for us. A terrible blizzard of stones dust and wreckage were being most violently flung against the building and even in the basement breathing was almost impossible. The deafening roar of the storm the shrieks and crying of the dying outside the flying debris and stones and dust outside broken trees being wildly flung against the building and the clouds of dust and darkness outside everywhere made it seem to me as if the end of the world had come and we were all in hell.

3321 The sound outside seemed to crush every thing flat. A furious fury of wind suddenly came on the storm striking the convent "broadside on" The building shivered and "careened" and it seemed she would go down through the basement.

There was an awful thundering sound of floors falling rooms and walls and collapsing floors and a complication of other sounds.

I felt sure everything in the upper part of the building was being swept away upper floors roof everything we had.

The storm has already raged for forty five seconds turning by a big clock on the basement the storm now assumed a fury even greater than before when it first began. The culmination came when there occurred an explosion of fiercest wind so terrific that everything on the sky seemed to go insane with noise. It was said at this time that the force of the wind was a hundred per cent greater than at the violent start of the storm on striking.

At this time nothing was being known of condition further on clouds of everything filled the air. The door of the convent of the basement ground on its huge

hinges and strained violently. 3322 at the iron bar stretched across it. The air within the basement became not to suffocation because of the heat of the wind outside moans and cries arose from the terrified refugees and no one seemed to be safe down there from what the wind was flinging through the basement windows. Thirty seconds more passed and finally the door was wrenched from its hinges, but suddenly at that moment the mighty wind left us behind and there came a sudden great calm that astounded us.

It was now all quiet out except for the roar of the retreating storm but awful darkness still continued.

The tornado had gone off into the distance, exhausted nature lay prostrate torn and bleeding. There was no tree left all being uprooted and carried away.

But the most mournful sight was the elm tree ave for in the place of the columnar trunks with their magnificent leafy canopies was a ragged row of large holes in the ground and badly shattered lam up sidewalk. The asphalt of the street were gone.

3323 Even the huge beautiful cedars cotton wood and sycamore trees were either horribly shattered or completely gone. One biggest tree I do not know the name of it about feet fifteen feet round and sixty feet high probably a silk cotton tree as well as a giant mango tree had been uprooted and thrown so funny upward that they actually stood upside down on their very thick but broken branches.

One large beautiful pine more than a hundred feet tall had been uprooted and stood standing at a very severe slant against the wall of what was left of the Convent.

All buildings grouped west and south and northeast of the Convent were utterly destroyed and crowds of the survivors were groping in their ruins for valuables.

But the crowning desolation of all was the total destruction of our great Convent and Gleason City's main post office. I can't say which of the two we were. Only one great structure remained standing of all the buildings destroyed by that "Childs protruding tongue". Its walls were of stone some three feet in thickness its rafters heavy and covered with steel tiles

the doorway doorways were 3324 broad with granite lintels. Above the ground floor where the machinery were placed were two large chambers. It was six stories high a block long and three quarters wide. It had a wing section standing like a broad tower ten stories high a quarter of a block all the way round and a steep slanting roof.

The beams supporting floor were round and strong marble and the floors themselves intact. It was called the Gladys Mortimer Wentworth Publishing Company. You would ask how it survived the tornado when all other such strong buildings were laid waste? Easy. It was not in its path. A good thing. It was crowded with all the employees, owner, foremen, President and Managers.

But I do believe even this structure could not withstand such an exceedingly violent tornado.

Our Convent looked like it had been razed by a terrific earthquake and scattered among our grounds was wreckage and stuff more that never had been there before. Terrified we can never rebuild

3325 the great convent unless charitable people come to our aid. For shelter we are in the chambers of that big twentieth century company, until something can be done for us. Did they say that "longue" struck Gleason City a glancing blow? Do you call fifty million dollars damage four hundred killed, two thousand injured and 12000 homeless a glancing blow? Then what they call it if it ripped up the whole city? Pooh."

The paper continues "even before the tornado took form between the two thunderstorms like stock in every farm and city or town became very uneasy and became uncontrollable at times. Cattle on farms howled day or night, sheep hogs, asses, mules, donkeys and other animals showed their fear of something unseen."

Dogs howled or ran away, or sought the company of their masters and gave every evidence of fears.

Many farm animals disappeared from the vicinity of the territory in danger. Even country snakes crawled away. Even field mice, gophers and chipmunks

and country wild cats 3326
skunks, squirrels disappeared. Birds ceased singing and left the farm fruit trees. A great fear seemed to be upon the forest and the region which grew worst towards noon of August 15. Prairie Chickens and other birds, and Bob whites were gone. And though it was shared by the human inhabitants they alone neglected to take warning and to protect themselves.

Atto H. Harnett, Superintendent of the United States Central Geodetic survey reports that that the delicately suspended magnetic needle at the Central States Geodetic survey observation or observation the ones situated in Chicago, many miles northeast of Chesterbourn, were disturbed beginning at Four P.M. and increasing at the time the catastrophe at Chesterbourn and other places is reported to have occurred.

The tornado struck Chesterbourn at Four Thirty P.M. August 15th and at 5 o'clock the City Hall clock was stopped at 3:50 A.M. Also the disturbance began at Chatterbourn Observatory at the time corresponding to 4:23 P.M. Chesterbourn local time and at the Baldern Observatory

3327 4:26 PM Chesterbourn time.
The delicate apparatus installed at
these observatories is so arranged
that it registers automatically by
photographic means the minutest
variations in the direction and intensity
of the earth's and our magnetic force.

It is a note worthy fact that no
seismological observatory has thus far
reported a seismic disturbance during
the tornado's rampage.

No magnetic effects due to tornado
deviation of distant sections have ever
been recognized at magnetic observatories
before. Purely mechanical vibrations
caused by earthquakes have been
often registered by the delicately poised
magnetic needles.

But this Chesterbourn tornado however
was recorded not only by seismog-
raphs at various places but also at
the Cheltenham magnetic observatory of
the Lake Michigan Coast Survey.

The force of this exceedingly violent
tornado simply caused a mechanical
vibration of the magnetic needles about
their mean position of rest and
lasted for four hours.

whereas the disturbance of August
15th was a far distant and

distinct magnetic effect pulling the

the needles aside from 3328
their usual direction and lasting
many hours. How the tornado
could produce this strange effect
on the needles which are supposed to
register earthquakes is not known
but it was a most remarkable
phenomenon indeed.

Even as far as Chicago and elsewhere
gathering storm clouds acted strangely
attracting the curious attention of the
people, observers, and the Weather de-
partment, during the rampage of the
tornado at Chesterbourn. All over Central
United States strange, mysterious, and
funny noises were in the sky
and objects appeared in the sky never
seen before.

"When I was called I was at that
meeting to be debated over the cause
of the strange formation of the earliest
part of the tornado. Medonil was
head of the meeting, as I knew all
about tornadoes, then spoken of
causes, and also on I was first called
upon to be first speaker. Angel
and Dorothy were there too as
they also studied a lot about them.
Mildred Maxwell was there too walk-
ing on crutches and so was Sister Class.

3328 "I can't explain" I began what
doubtfulness in my voice
what caused the tornado to take
form between the two thunderstorms
that were ~~several~~ miles apart from
one another. That never was ever
before heard of.

Many related according to the
newspapers that the eastern edge of
the first thunder storm acted strangely,
while the western rear of the same
acted as if in conflict with the
eastern edge of the second storm.

There was also a queer undecipherable
phenomenon between the two
storms, and you must remember the
two thunder storms were immeasurably
violent with an unusual cloud burst
of rain and much too loud a
roar of thunder.

A similar phenomenon was witnessed
at three in the afternoon when some
kind of destructive out break of
the rear part of the thunderstorm
part of the cloud occurred materially
changing this in the geographical
outline of the cloud. The manner
in which the formation of the
strange cloud could be explained
and just deflected in the direction
of Johnson town of which its gapping

3328 tongue left no trace present.
one of the most difficult problems
connected with the strange formation
which tornado scientific experts will
be called upon to explain. You can
remember my friends" I continued
that this happened to be the most
hottest August for years. Unusually
wicked storms had been frequent
and everywhere.

Then another thing. A cool
wave coming down towards us far
too cool for this time of the year
rushed somewhere into the hot spell
first forming there exceeding loud
and wild thunderstorms.

It has been said that one part
of the cloud of the rear part of the
first thunderstorm blew her head
cloud off but it is probably the
explosion in the air as distinguished
from the sudden forming of a
more tornado on the rear was even
more extended than that, and that
the whole rear of the thunderstorm
cloud was torn to splintered
seconds and scattered outward into
the center between the two
as well as upward in all directions.

By a strange phenomenon they

3324 all reformed between the two storms between which came some of that chilly air which threw the reforming clouds into drastic convulsions. Evidently that formed the child headed cloud appearing to be strangled.

I must and will say it is not a good place for a tornado to form between two severe thunderstorms with unusually heavy rain that causes the tornados to draw moisture too much moisture from both storms and the electrical conditions too.

They then become very exceedingly dangerous.

A similar phenomena was witnessed in 1896 when the destructive outbreak of the tornado in May occurred not only carrying all before it, killing nearly a thousand people but almost changing the geographical outlines of the land scape and destroying the powerful adze bridge across the river which the boulders thought could never be destroyed. On that occasion it was said that the strange head head shape was that of a strangling boy which unlike this little girl head, turned into a sudden explosion which seemed to tear out the

side of the main cloud 3395 from which opening the tornado cloud, came down, hurling itself forward with immeasurable fury.

On the occasion referred to there was another phenomenon which has been witnessed at the forming of the great Chesterham tornado.

An enormous volume of tornado cloud must have formed high in the air - it attained a height it has been estimated of fully thirty thousand feet & thickens, where the upper parts were taken up by the counter currents and wafted across more than a hundred miles of the upper atmosphere in a direction contrary to that of other changing winds and then probably formed by this situation into the strange head shape of the head of a little girl being strangled with protruding tongue.

The same phenomenon was noted during the formation of the late St Louis Tornado when these protruding tongue became a terrific funnel which in hitting the city carried all before it, although the upper winds were blowing steadily all the while towards the southwest.

This type of tornado gentlemen is

3331 the most savage of them them all. That odd shaped head was I believe produced by conflicting cold and hot air currents that went wild as terror there has never been witnessed in the experience of human beings so awful a scene of destruction as that tornado upheaval as at Chesterbourn or the other cities.

I've been there and seen it all. The accounts of this cataclysm in which twenty five hundred tourists and Chesterbourn residents men women and children were in seventy five seconds overwhelmed to a horrible death by this worst tornado on all record well make the proudest man feel how tiny and insignificant he is and indeed all the rest of us humanly too in the face of nature's mysterious and mighty if tornado throes.

Despite its odd shape the inner part of the head nearest the protruding tongue must have been in frightful convulsions because of the conflicting cold and hot currents of air and the protruding tongue was the formation of the most dangerous funnel to ever come onto existence. That is as far as

3332 I can explain the cause of its formation. The exceeding speed of its wild whirling motion must have caused the tornado to become so hot. As you well know gentle men many famous poets have set their imaginations to play in picturing the frights and horrors of Hell.

I read the one of Milton which is the greatest of them.

Reading that sent shivers up and down my back. But I believe these infernal regions and all its unspeakable horrors and terrors as he conceived them were not more heinous and appalling than what I've heard and read of the experience of those hapless inhabitants upon whom the explosive force of that strange child "longue" tore through Chesterbourn and other places like a mad savage hell of its own.

The food is that the dreaded day of Judgment as foretold in the Bible and prophetic visions of the pious could hardly impress us humans with more horror than the full extinction as in seventy five seconds of Chesterbourn by the blast and whirlwind of infernal forces. It was a very wild "longue" of unusual length.

3333 It was one of the most impressive events of all history. It was a holocaust that will always form now on mass civilization after all seem very frail and feeble and will always completely dwarf the sense of importance which fill us even concerning their relation to the very uncouth and hostile universe.

There is nothing like a full contemplation of your tornado or the wildest thunderstorms may even hurricanes earthquakes and volcanic disasters for knocking ingenuity conceit and vanity out of the human heart. I have explained the odd shape cause as much as possible. It was to my opinion formed by the cold and hot conflicting currents contesting each other.

This too I studied on tornadoes. It is said they have cold and descending and hot rising currents. The hot uprising currents in the life of the storm the downward current the controller. If the controller gets too tough it can retard the tornado whirl or make it die out altogether.

The center or funnel of the tornado can what is called contract on itself or become like a storm cloud and there fore would cut off some of

the downward current. If this happens the tornado will run wild and God keep what is in its path. It is said that in very long tornado funnels the downward current of cool air is very weak therefore gentlemen that twist is exceedingly dangerous as it has a weak controller.

Evidently this Chester Brown "longue" was that sort. It even was a sky splitter. I can't explain much more as I may be taking too much time for the next speaker. Yet I will say in abrupt conclusion that the scientific corps of the U.S. Weather Bureau in St. Paul are being engaged in studying the direction and force of these upper currents and the phenomena connected with that odd shape and its blind fury will materially assist us as soon as possible by stirring at odd cloud formations.

Experienced geologist and meteorologists will come here soon to study these and other phenomena of the tornado of what it did and valuable scientific results must surely follow."

I now sat down. Another man arose. He said:

"In most ways Mr. Dargan is right.

3335 Although he ~~so~~ has thrown some light on the cause of the odd head cloud and the character of the terrible "tongue" by which Chesterbourn and others have ~~been~~ ^{been} blotted out of existence the exact nature of that odd cloud shape is a matter of speculation.

All eye witnesses of the cloud of disaster who observed it from house windows or in the streets have been killed, mangled or most painfully injured and the stories they tell are far from being consistent and circumstantial.

The manner in which the cloud took so unusual a shape and its "protruding tongue" deflected first in the direction of Johnson town wiping it off the map presents one of the most difficult problems connected with the destructive "tongue" which scientific experts will be called upon to explain.

If I may say so with permission on the occasion just referred to there was another phenomenon which was also witnessed when the tornado hit Gibson. An enormous volume of mud and plaster, dust and all sorts of other debris was sucked or pulled high into the

main cloud head through the 3336 still open mouth it is said it attained a height it has been estimated of fully twenty five thousand feet where it was taken up by the counter currents and wafted across a hundred miles of land in a direction contrary to that of other winds and then deposited in all sorts of debris scattered far and wide over country, farm or city as if a shower of debris.

The same phenomena was noted during the destruction of Northeast Se. Sale and still worse when the storm tore through Chesterbourn, Chesterchire and elsewhere when a great shower of dust and all sorts of debris made its way in all directions from the upper part of the tornado cloud, so far as Lincoln Ill although upper currents of air were blowing steadily all the while towards the Northwest.

Another man said whose name Professor Milne one of the greatest authorities in the world on volcanic and tornado phenomena divides tornadoes into two classes. He said -

Maybe my opinion on tornadoes may or may not be correct but there

3337. Idea of mine is this:
Tornadoes that form slowly and have wide funnels, especially near the cloud from which it protrudes of course it too is very destructive especially if it moves forward very slowly.

It then will be of much longer duration with winds of three hundred miles per hour. They have too much of a downward current and probably only travel fifty miles or more then die out.

2. Those like the Chester town, St Louis and Omaha tornado. They are the ones which form more rapidly. It is a rare rare case that any have even taken the form of the head of a strangling child. But it on four cases tornadoes did.

The one that struck St Louis, Kansas City, Adams County Mississippi May 2 1840 317 killed. and the one at Omaha and Chester town, On three occasions it was the head like unto a little girl.

The one striking St Louis was like the head of a boy. As much of a great professor that I am I can truthfully say that the true cause of such a odd formation is not too correctly known but that protruding tongue is the main cause of it. These type of

of tongue tornadoes I will say 3338 has been absolutely proven to be the most violent and dangerous of all to cities towns, human life and the physical face of a country.

It is funnel though usually just as wide as the shorter one is way much too long. Therefore the downward current is too slow, and is half choked, while the upward current is much too swift and wild.

This type of tornadoes have lost its controller. In this condition the tornado cannot be controlled, the speed of its forward march is badly retarded and it whirls with unmeasurable un-governed fury and speed. But in this building up of its upward current and such a slowing down of its descending current; some of the tornadoes strange whirl gets out of hand and fierce wild smashing winds accumulate in the base of the column connecting with the ground, and unusual strength of winds accumulate beneath that must eventually find vent.

That is usually the cause of the spherical shape that forms at the lower extremity of the twister as it comes so swiftly down to earth.

3339 Sooner or later they must
burst forth, the radiation winds
are probably over a thousand
miles per hour and then the
terrific disasters of the most worst
kind takes place.

The vast fields of conflicting
cold and hot air which were boiling
and rushing with unconceivable speed
were acted upon by too much
moisten in the thunder storms, and
much worst between them.

This no doubt connected with
the far flung out rear of the first
thunderstorm and the headlong
collision of atmospheric conditions
between them.

The Weather Bureau of St. Gall
nearly a fortnight before, before
the forming of the two record break-
ing thunderstorms that colder air far
above near Kansas and Iowa later
had dropped 2000 feet into the
abnormal heat wave. Through the rear
of the chilly spell rushed in at once
forward producing very dangerous
atmospheric condition very serious
type indeed, burning in contact
with the unusually severe heat
waves an immense amount of
sudden thick cloudiness was generated.

This cloud formations became 3340
these unusually severe thunderstorms,
but each one was sixty miles
apart from one another.

These rushing currents were not
satisfied with this mischief they were
doing. Some scientist believe there
currents shot also from north and
south into and between the two
storms because of their violent attraction.

The two currents became like two
deadly enemies, or like two men lovers
or women lovers contending over the
situation.

Fighting savagely against each other
in my opinion then unrollables
convulsions formed that odd shaped
head. In my opinion a tornado has
no business forming between two
thunderstorms. This also probably
caused that head phenomenon.

The tongue though sticking out as
if from a strangled child became
convulsed to an intensity of five
or six ton pressure of wind to
the square sixty yard.

It is almost impossible to
conceive its latent force. The area
of wide open mouth which con-
fined it could not hold the

3342 the immensely increasing
volume of conflicting wind driving
on. It sought an outlet the upper
part of the head proved too strong
with such a an whole whirlpool.

It attached the weakest front part
of the face which was adjacent to
Johnson town.

It connected with the protruding
tongue cloud which was unable to
withstand the strain and blew out.
As long as it takes a projectile to
shoot through the air from a cannon,
and drop to earth, just so long
it "tongue" of now great length
to smash upon Johnson town.

The consequent fury of the upranging
out of Johnson town must have
generated wild up tearing force that
resulted in the terrible death one
one quarter of the inhabitants and
all the rest badly injured and
fatally injured.

The very force of the wind was
instantly fatal. The wind too became
so hot that even the heat was
dangerous. If the path of destruction
is anything like that of other
great tornados no vegetable or
animal or human life can survive
them for a minute.

How come that darn tornado is 3344
called the tongue?" someone at the meeting
asked "It seems strange and ridiculous
that word 'tongue'."

"Because the tongue became the tornado
the professor answered. Besides the name
is not my idea. Many have called it
it. I've just taken that word up. Besides
it still protruded from the open clouds
mouth, and witnesses say that darn
cloud seemed to retain that odd
shape as far as the terrific storm
traveled.

It is stated that 'tongue' from St
Gleason, not counting Johnson town, all
the way to Terre Haute, killed injured
and fatally injured or crippled for
life tens of thousands of men
women and children many swept to a
sudden and most terrible death.

Beautiful cities and towns, and
many farms from Johnson town,
to Terre Haute laid waste as long as
it took the tornado to travel that
distance. That 'tongue' horror caused
scenes of suffering and devastation
that overwhelms all description.
It horrified our whole nation and
the rest of the civilized world.

3345 Horrified by the appalling news of this greatest tornado calamity, even known before, many people all over the country everywhere became afraid of all coming black clouds of thunderstorms for fear a tornado would be in the rear of one.

You ask why the tornado was called the "Tongue"? If you men and women, and a few children here wouldn't object me using ^{them}, there are a few words I could call that "Tongue" which you wouldn't find in Webster's Dictionary or a prayer book.

At this a murmur of giggle resounded throughout the large room including mine also. Then one woman said "For what it did, we'd all call it profane words if God permitted it."

He continued "Such is the tragic story of Chester Brown and other cities towns and farms here - have been many disasters by flood wind and fire in recent times but none of them put together can equal this. The Johnson town Calamity was the beginning of this. The dreadful Gleason city and Gleason explosion yet did not result in a eighth part of the loss of life that

has visited Chester Brown and 3346 other cities where doom was sealed by this dire "tongue" calamity. In a moment in the twinkling of an eye as it were a multitude of human beings in Chester Brown alone were plunged into the jaws of death or crippled for all their lives.

Many residences shared the fate of the humble dwellings of the poor. Buildings devoted to business fine magnificent most costly banks churches the great Sacred Convent big markets including the super market, the parks ships in the river were destroyed by this worst of all tornadoes. Respect for truth obliges me to confess that I have no superior wisdom or arm? so very wise to explain in perfection what caused the tornado to assume such an odd shape and remain that way for all the distance it traveled.

Neither have I had any practical experience in all my studies and knowledge in knowing too well the cause of the phenomenon. But let us consider this case. The "protruding tongue" was a renegade twister and

3347. its fury is not an ordinary tornado like the other kind and is much above their strength. In this case the 'tongue' if I must say it again has been of an overwhelming immeasurable force and fury and carried all before it as far as it traveled, and it was a more dangerous one of all.

Yet with all its ants of honor at its command it is still a tornado and surely there are ways in which the mystery of the strangling child's head shape may be solved. How do you say, how?

Allow me to state that I don't know. Also I wasn't there to see the phenomenon. In my judgement we cannot decide how best to act carefully until we get pictures of the phenomenon, if any had been taken.

None so far have been seen in any of the news papers and none so far have been sketched from any description. So if only we had a picture or camera shot of it we could take a look at it and study it. If we had

such a photograph or even a sketch we may discover an idea that will guide us to victory. Army one here heard of any one who ever took a picture of it? 3348

"The overwhelming disaster brought awe inspiring news that came as a shock to people every where so I believe any one was too excited or panicky to find out if the papers had any photographs of it" I myself said. "I have plenty of newspapers in the committee office and a few with me now in my inside pocket but none of them has any picture of the old striped clouds."

It is probable no one even had the time or chance to take a picture or had a camera if they did. Bulletin board in all our cities were surrounded by eager crowds to obtain the latest reports but no such picture was mentioned or thought of.

Many who had friends or relatives in the stricken cities were kept in too much suspense respecting their fate to think of such a photograph.

With bated breath was the terrible calamity talked about but nothing about such photographs.

3349. Since August 15 the magnitude of the disaster grew from day to day. Every fresh report added to the intelligence already received and made it clear that many thousands of the inhabitants had been swept out of existence with the great number of injured and homeless yet no pictures of the head phenomenon in the papers.

Evidently no one took a picture of that odd shaped cloud. But if I would help I can sketch it perfectly according by following its description. I am also a perfect artist.

"When can you do it? and how long will it take?" asked the President of the meeting.

"I can make the sketch within ten minutes," I answered. "But I need the paper and pencil."

Receiving the supply I looked for the description in the paper I carried, followed it and the sketch paper picture was promptly made. With ink and a paint brush I colored it according to the description.

3350
"Here," I said, handing the picture to the Professor. "I hope we can solve the mystery by this." He studied it carefully. While he examining it Professor Milne was asked:-

"Is it likely that there could be other tornadoes in the world at present that could one day or another form and be as fatal as this one?"

"It is almost certain there are."

"Some in Kansas?"

Many in Kansas.

"Some in other states of this great country?"

"Undoubtly."

Could the Brooklyn bridges crossing the East River withstand this Charleston tornado?

"They would have no chance with any tornado. They could rip them away like rope." This tornado could fling the bridges about. As you see our railroad passing here was totally damaged and progress impossible for the embankment had been badly cracked the rails spread or burst all the way by the storm and the rail bed torn up. That big railroad bridge across the river was telescoped and torn up and by the water.

3351 and you ask could the Brooklyn bridges withstand the twist. And this bridge was made a hundred times stronger than all the Brooklyn bridges put together.

"No one I believe" declared another member of the meeting, "can surely identify the cause of the forming of the strange odd shaped cloud. Any one now knows that this 'head' of the strangling child cloud though it had hitherto appeared, was soon to be compelled by its immense 'tongue', the whole world to pay it instant attention." They say the first sound was almost like a child desperately coughing when at first being half strangled. I myself at Gleason saw that cloud.

The protruding of tongue of that cloud head was to become the scene of a tornado so appalling that is destined to be remembered throughout the ages."

Could no one solve the mystery of why the cloud assumed that form? asked the president of the meeting.

"From this picture" explained Professor Mullins "it could seem evident that some sort of influence from the two thunder storms produced it. The atmosphere between the two thunderstorms must have had a

dangerous vacuum because of cooling winds rushing from south 3352 and north into the space between them. It is said each storm was sixty five miles apart, yet had a strange attraction from each other. It was said by the action of moderate cloudy weather between them there were what is called 'air pockets' a dangerous situation during stormy weather.

A ship caught in an air pocket could be totally ripped to shreds. I suppose you now know what an air pocket is."

A miniature twister in the sky someone answered. "They're a good seed for a tornado in the making."

"Exactly" answered the Professor. "There were notable warnings during the fourteenth of August but most of the people in the town of Johnson. So Hall and Gleason, nearest the danger zone

far from being terrified, looked at the strange clouds rights as very attractive and interesting but as insignificant and and out on picnic and outings that in the day was. They in the afternoon of the 15th vast cloud formations high over the zenith and heard even loud terrific thunder far to the southward. Then all night and still till

3353 noon the great thunderstorm raged, as the early afternoon of this dread day advanced the vigor of the clouds between the two storms increased, the head formed the more became more and more vehement. The cloud head supposed continued in convulsions until the tongue stuck out and then the supreme display occurred.

After two or three ~~from~~ preliminary struggles of the larger cloud formed to the neck the tongue first stuck out as full irresistible pressure was on the throat then there was as we read a frightful convulsion of the main cloud, the mouth opened wide the tongue swelled out, stretched across the sky fell down a long funnel and had a most frightful convulsion of its own which struck and tore away Johnson Town and scattered it to the winds.

Though called a glancing blow it tore a much longer distant and devastating path through Gleason than the powerful one did at Onnaho and next totally wiped out the Gleason City and nearly annihilating all the

inmates. In the beginning of that awful effort all records of previous tornadoes on this earth was completely broken. The noise they said was plainly heard at Galist 15 or 20 miles away where houses trembled and windows rattled as if some heavy artillery were being discharged at their very doors.

Indeed the roar of the "tongue" attracted the attention of the people of St. Louis more than three hundred miles away. It could hardly be believed but it was proven true, especially when it raged through Chester Brown.

It is said the ears of the dwellers on Galist had received a considerable sort of shock. Even St. Louis was not too far to the south and Madison in Wisconsin too near to the north. Everybody heard it within a distance of more than three hundred miles away in any direction.

And that protruding tongue to turn into such a most explicable or excusable mark of the storm of the an. Even with this picture it is still hard to think of what caused this strange formation. In fact it is a mystery.

3755 that only God can solve "

"Do you think the air pockets were responsible?" I asked.

"No "

"I" said another member of the meeting was in the path of that damn 'tongue' but escaped miraculously. There had been all night and till noon the moon the next day the wickedest thunderstorm I ever heard.

Before the disaster occurred many had told me that the weather had been acting ugly since the 13th and fourteenth and that there had been quite a fall of very heavy rain, and a cloudburst of large hailstones that covered the streets four inches deep.

Even unusually loud thunder broke forth during that three quarters of an hour storm. However the evening thunderstorm seemed to have passed off towards the east by noon and everything now seemed to have quieted down and we got to feel less disturbed or apprehensive.

I had seen the odd shaped cloud with protruding tongue around ten minutes after four in the afternoon but was too busy to pay any attention to it though

3756
-lot of people gazed at as if fascinated. Where we were it was not sideways but the face towards us. It did actually look like the face of a child being strangled, the cloud connecting with the creek was struggling as if in convulsions.

But being too busy with my work I had no time to make an attempt to exorcise it. That nearly cost me my life.

Roaring down from the sky.

There was now unusually severe lightning and thunder each crack becoming more and more vehement until the great thunder now so rapidly developing was astonishing us and all the inhabitants. I still continued my work then after two preliminary still more louder thunder that now attracted my attention there was a blinding flash of lightning of lightning the brightness of which I never seen before in my life followed by a most frightful convulsion which seemed loud enough to tear the heavens apart.

3351 and scatter it to the four ends of the earth. In that final effort all records of previous explosions of thunder were completely broken. It was said the thunder was plainly heard at Joliet where the concussion made windows rattle and houses shake. Then there was silence except a doleful sound from the cloud.

Then something happened. There was a shaking in the air so that I felt as though some one had jostled me very roughly. I was then looking at that head and its protruding tongue and every soul nearby looked too.

I can't exactly describe what I saw in the gathering darkness but my first thought was that the end of the world would appear just like that. It was just as though the tongue had turned into a large snout. Then it struck and yelled bloody murder opened out wider and I saw the tongue come down through it in tremendously wild fury and came roaring down out of the sky towards our town. Some of us with Morley rushed to the

basement of the nearest house to 3352 and into what was supposed to be a shelter. As we did so it was though our town of Johnson was being blown up by all the dynamite in all the world.

It seemed to change into a sudden monstrous cloud of dust and debris so thick you couldn't see through it. The tip of the 'tongue' was perfectly clear, giving to earsplitting

I saw policemen shouting order and I saw Mayor McLean rush out into the street as we reached the steps to the basement. The hoard cloud tongue was upon us. More of the town joined the big debris cloud in a conglomeration of maddening sound.

The town before us was actually disappearing. There was another wildest roar beyond describing to save your life and with it all of what was being left of the town seemed to gather up and rush headlong among the remaining streets like a tidal wave of dust and debris. When the storm struck where we were it was as if every ship in a harbor heeled over to a great tidal wave wave and seem to

3754 fly into clouds of splinters and disappear into flying dust. When the storm struck where we were rushing to shelter it swept everything away. I don't know where it came from, but something in the form of a ship's large ventilator came towards me as I was rushing down the basement stairs.

I tried to prevent it from striking me by trying to seize it and was nearly killed thereby, being driven into it by the force of the wind and hauled violently like a sumo wrestler down the steps.

A couple of men pulled me out of the ventilator and dragged me down into the basement.

Here I remained half dead for quite a time during which the big house rolled and swayed and then went away leaving only the floor above the ceiling. Now and then a shrieking woman, man, or child boy or girl were flung down the basement stairway and died as they came so that quite a pile of corpses lay over me.

Some one pulled me from under there and put me on a cot of cat and cot down there.

I saw a fat policeman flung down the stairs. I knew him by

his uniform though there were almost 1000 from him, but his face was scorched beyond recognition. "That wind is hotter than hell," he said as we helped him to a cot.

All this time the wind was roaring wildly and the air was full of strange shocks.

After a minute and fourteen seconds the storm passed away into the distance and there came a sudden calm. Yet you could hear the storm loudly as it was going away towards the northeast.

When I went up the steps and looked at where Johnson town had been the sight was terrifying. The town was gone and in its place were clouds of all different colored clouds of dust in the air and coming down like fine snow of all colors.

There was a horrid hellish smell in the air as if his infernal majesty and a legion of his devils were out on a parade. Some hours later I don't know how long it was then but I've since been told it was six o'clock on the evening with another big thunder storm worse than the first coming on, a number of wagons hauled by mules came up and rescued seventeen of us from the basement more dead

3360 We were taken to Gleason. It was night then and we were soaking wet, and such a night. There were continual crashes of the loudest thunder ever heard and rain continued to fall in torrents. It was almost a cloudburst the storm raging in all its wildest fury. Never in my life have I seen such a thunderstorm and one that would not let up but continually grew worse and worse.

The streets were filled with people who were soaking wet actually drenched and who acted as though they were mad. Frequently the cries of the wounded being unloaded at St. Joseph's Hospital were drowned by the record breaking terrific peals of thunder. The lightning was so bright you could easily see to read the finest print by it.

All there was in darkness. Even here electric were torn down or swept away. Telephone and telegraph were out of order or in commission and each house that survived was practically a box full of frightened people. From this I knew that the cyclone had hit this city of Gleason also.

While in the hospital that awful stormy night I heard about the

3361
wiping out of the Gleason asylum. I was in the hospital told me the cloud was most peculiar. It resembled a huge child's face ~~then~~ turned us with the tongue sticking out as if the child was being strangled.

They told me the tongue swelled lengthened and came down like an enormous tremendous explosion. I heard rescue work started as soon as surviving people were able to hurry to the stricken districts but they could only work slowly through the night and only was by the light of lanterns and little was accomplished.

They say the storm took away all the wires and many telephone poles and they had to shut off the electric power immediately to prevent further loss of life. The hospital was only lighted by candles. Others came later who helped out the rescuers who had been at work at six o'clock of the night before and with the coming of daylight the work was systematized and a search for bodies and injured was redoubled. I was only slightly injured, got ~~released~~ released.

3363 from the hospital and volunteered for rescue work as they whom I helped told me all electric light and in many were carried away by the storm and the power had to be shut off in the devastated districts so that all rescue work done by them in that rainy stormy night had to be done by the light of lanterns and only an imperfect idea of the extent and character of the damage could be formed.

They said the work of rescue which was at once undertaken was also very slow because of the darkness, blockaded streets and the continual cloud burst of rain, But fortunately the fact that torrential rain followed the "tongues" blew soaking the debris preventing any fires.

By afternoon late most of the bodies had been removed by the hundreds of rescuers who had been working all night with lanterns.

but I frequently came across crowds of people waiting to be taken away by ambulances, They say three thousand were homeless the gowns of the injured and

dyings being mixed with 3363 the lamentations of the many dispossessed of loved ones and homes.

"Horrible phenomena of the strangling child:

I was told when in the hospital for my check up that at three 45 PM a great head shaped strangling child cloud threw its tongue down to the ground and destroying Johnson town of which I was a witness, destroyed a long stretch of the Northwest and Northeast of Gleason and killed so many of their people, swept away the Gleason Baylum as you would start with a broom, a hundred and seventeen ships or pleasure craft on the river all the way to and past Chesterhire and railroad, and bridges and all the country side between game hills and beyond Terre Haute It also struck a portion of Kanabhee and scores of towns.

The phenomena of this odd cloud at its formation so far as I have been able to ascertain there were as follows.

The Witnesses:

Witnesses of this terribly "strangling child cloud" were many but of survivors there are few. Of those 2

3364 I personally interviewed Captain John Freeman of the Social Gleason Police force and officers John Evans and Francis John Morris of the Gleason main police station who witnessed the strange phenomena from the south side and the swift descent of the 'tongue' and Mr. George Jack Evans who observed it from the west and its side view. I have also analyzed the printed reports of other witnesses.

Some of the witnesses of the odd shaped cloud head, could see only a portion of the phenomena. Father Devine in Gleason in the part not struck by the storm whose story is the most intelligible of those from the City facing the North could see the strange shape of the cloud, but too much convolution of the main cloud connecting with the neck obscured his view of the protruding tongue turning into the awful turbines and coming rapidly down.

This also was the case with John Freeman who lived southeast of in Gleason. The witnesses from the ships in the river could see the appearance of the odd cloud but as the northern edge of the black aerial mass approached them a shower of some kind quickly forming cut off their

observation of those things. (taken 3365 - place of the head in it rather, which could be seen by observers from the city's south side.

All of the witnesses many of them frightfully injured were too busily engaged in securing their own safety to devote their attention to the phenomena exclusively. I was given one while I was in the hospital intelligible and accurate accounts of what they witnessed.

These are Father Devine of Our Lady of Angels Church and John Freeman of the Social Gleason Police. I was associated with the latter for a week after the "Choking Child head" disaster. The story of Father Devine was given by Father O'Hara in the New York Times. Many other witnesses have noted important single facts.

Mr. Francis John Morris the Chief of the Gleason Police whose miraculous escape from the devastated part of the city has been recorded, informed me that the needle on the large, or of the large aneroid barometer hanging in the police station fluctuated very, very violently and this fact determined him to go to the deep basement of the Police Station, his officers being forced to follow him. There

3766 fluctuations were without the slightest doubt disturbances of the air from the fury of the coming violent storm. I've seen in Gleason where a statue weighing four tons called of "Our Lady of the Watch" was torn from her immense pedestal still standing, and hurled two thousand yards by the terrific blast.

All witnesses agreed upon my questioning that every place was overwhelmed by the tongue, forming into the terrific funnel which yet traveled somewhat less than a mile a minute across from Gleason and crashing Chesterbourn to pieces.

It may be noted here that in all of the many subsequent tornado horrors which many died in, the clouds of this unspeakable terror especially the part black in color and of greatest density boiled out in great balloon or mushroom shape clouds with numerous rolling convolutions worthy to attract any one's attention drifting above like a gigantic mushroom cloud.

These from the strange head were wider columns of brownish cloud without convolutions and traveled across the sky in a speed that seemed they were in an awful hurry to get somewhere.

According to George Jack 3367 Evans the assistant chief of Police who with a police cap on his head was looking at the strange flashes of lightning from the tongue and earth and sky splitting thunder. Then first the tongue stuck out much more further not followed by any more, which also swelled spread out and seemed to lose its balance.

Then after a short interval the tongue quivered, the body of connecting to the neck was in frightful convulsion and down came the tongue with a ball shape at its lower end and appeared to explode like a big volcanic mountain as it struck the ground. The head itself then was in uncontrollable fury.

On seeing this "the fatal tongue?" Mr. Evans rushed down the steps of the station Evans is positive that the winter first wiped out some other village before destroying Johnson Town. Francis John Morris also saw the odd head apparently open up below the drum and the bottom of the cloud body seem to burst open. He said the tongue fell to the ground like a rope.

Father Devine had a clear view

3368 of the strange head but not of Johnson town or the rest. He saw a long dense column shoot downward from the open mouth like something resembling an Elephants trunk which hitting the ground burst like an enormous volcanic eruption. A man who I knew by the name of Jean Marcus Evans on the grounds of the Gleason Asylum saw the protruding tongue coming of the open mouth. A dweller and run with all his might shrieking.

He said the funnel had a ball shape at its lower extremity and did not come straight down but took a long slant towards the ground.

He said it was high connecting with the cone tongue and exploded near the wall.

Mr. Hattie Mary Jennings from his house $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles northeast of the Gleason home saw a column of black cloud issuing from the lower end of the protruding tongue which explosively settled down near Johnson town. She told me she fled into her cellar but her house after all was not in its path.

It passed by a block away.

Why was the
3369
"The visible composition" said the Professor was of a dense mass of vigorous storm cloud which everywhere filled the region with so much intense darkness. Besides this fierce winds of record breaking force with great heat were apparently present as has been shown.

The cloud as seen approaching towards Gleason was dense opaque and of a dark brownish black color. It was unusually long and stretched far across the sky as it lowered itself to the ground. It howled loud and stormally. The density of the cloud head was so great as to cause total darkness over all the sky and town it enveloped.

For some reason or other the cloud below its main upwards stretch seemed to have lost its cooling descending controlling current and grew wilder than hell.

It traveled along the surface of the ground in a sort of bee line instead of zigzagging it wouldnt stop. Owing to this wild fury, houses estates trees people small hills everywhere were no more in its diabolical path.

The cloud a mile and three quarters

3370 wide and spinning faster than six electric motors put together advanced from southwest to northeast following the configuration of the river and railroad lines at the speed of more than a mile a minute lasting in its savage rage about a minute and seventeen seconds at where it tore through Gleason.

Beside the progressive motion its strange convolution surged and rolled in the under part of the cloud above.

Yet no witnesses could testify positively to a zigzag course or out of its course motion.

Some say that it raced crazy crazily vertically and its upper convolutions the same. Father Darnon stated that trees flew away circularly those of the biggest and strongest flew in one direction or everywhere even sailing high in the air or flew around like birds in the air.

The path of the "tongue cloud" was from southwest to northeast but more, a great deal more from west than south. The area of its destruction was they say a mile and three quarters wide not in circular form around but across, or at least that was the width of its path of

destruction. An interesting fact 3371 told by Charles Evans habitually moved against the slow northeast direction of the wind. It seemed impossible but countless persons proved that it did. I cannot nor any one interpret can interpret this astonishing marvelous phenomenon. Was there a tremendous indraft caused by the mad fury of the twister?

And if it had not this to advance against could it have moved forward much faster? Was this counter breeze the cause of its tremendous wild deafening roar? Why couldnt the northeast breeze have not checked it?

Many say the air in front of the "tongue" was near zero cold, while in the rear the air was hot enough to scorch your face and make paper smokers. What was the cause of this extraordinary and crazy phenomenon? Heat. Because it whirled so fast and moved against the northeast breeze the cloud funnel was hot.

All witnesses agreed testified to feeling its heat even when beyond its range. The very air in its path path was hot for hours and all warm during the night, why?

3372. It is said the winds were sufficiently hot to cause full ignition of paper, rope, cotton or even oil or to explode gasoline, and burn bedding but to ignite wood work on the pitch pine timber of the storm torn wreckage.

Mrs. Hettie Jennings 74 hot blocks in Gleason out of the X. turnster path felt a blast of hot air. Others on the margin of the disaster testify to the hot air. I myself interviewed a writer I who had personally felt the hot blast of air from this turnster.

Steam in cloud funnel:

In addition to hot winds there was an invisible heated substance in the tornado cloud which penetrated clothing without firing it and burned the human skin beneath as attested to the burns upon the backs of many killed or injured by the storm. It is possible that the lower part of the turnster turned into superheated steam by sucking the water in the river into its whorl. It reminds me of a whole lot of the deadly cloud from Pelée that infired at probably forty thousand at St. Pierre. Except the cloud funnel had not any gases or fiery dust."

3373. "It did" I exclaimed. "What?" demanded the Professor. "It did have gas. It tore out all the gas mains when it tore up the sewers, and all the gas pipes in all the houses of the places it struck. It demolished the great gas tanks in Gleason, S. a. Ball and Chestnut and else where sucking away the gas. It read all out it. Many lost their lives also because of the gas. 'In surprised lightning did not ignite and explode it'."

Also there no testimony that the destructive cloud was incandescent at the lower extremity. If it had been the gas would have exploded. All parties who witnessed the "cloud tongue" from the front (advance) and who escaped but badly injured testify that they saw no flame or incandescence in it as some say it had.

There is positive evidence that the cloud was not incandescent.

Charles Evans who looked up through a sky light in his house that escaped, not being in its path says he saw no fire or light in the dense funnel beyond him. His point of view was outside

3374 of the destructive circle. Distant lightning raged high above but was too high to ignite the gas. The professor continued after a few moments of profound silence from my statement.

Many say the most tremendous displays of vicious lightning like balls and very long flashes coming from the tongue before it turned into a funnel. The evidence of such unusual lightning lightning from the tongue and also neck was indisputably testified by many witnesses near and far.

I myself have witnessed the awful phenomenon from the tongue. George John Flannigan stated to me in describing the current odd shaped head and tongue that flashes of lightning went than any he saw in tropical thunder storms moved from the tongue tongue across the whole cloud above. This phenomenon was produced before the tongue became the twister with a beautiful honor.

Policeman Jack Evans distinctly and voluntarily testified to me that there was much of the most severe and blinding lightning ever seen before in any storm

before during the display 3375 of the protruding tongue. Father Derrane say the same most tremendous lightning sheet three or four times from the tongue and several times from the neck preceding the most record breaking calamity. There was no positive evidence of death or destruction from the lightning nor was there sufficient data to say that there was no such effects. No fulgurites were found, no splintered trees no shattering out of the path of the storm.

The iron work of the Sacred Heart Convent was bent out of shape by the fierce and savage wind, and also they saw hundreds upon hundreds of commercial iron ~~bars~~ bars from an unknown territory scattered all over but not bent or damaged in any way. The only apparent electrical phenomenon reported is the allegation that Mr Evans said he found that the large bronze image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus which formerly surmounted the grounds of Saint Patrick's Church in Gleason had been melted down to its heavy stone pedestal. The Church and image was not in the path of the tornado but the Church Rectory was and blown away.

3776. An other friend of mine Johnnie Johnson says that the telegraph office and its contents were burned and that some fragments of the apparatus were thrown five thousand yards.

The office might have been burned by electricity but the lightning was not due to these this came only by the wind as the office was not in the path of the tornado.

The correspondent of the Gleason Bureau says that many of the bodies looked as if they had been struck by lightning but this is not proven. Yet the papers stated later that evidence has been found of lightning strokes on objects in the city and ten persons were killed and six for trolleys of street cars put out of commission.

From the thunder detonation like rolling roar of many artillery were heard distinctly at Joliet from Quater to five till near four thirty.

At the same length of time the Weather Bureau and people of Peoria heard the thunder. There even reach as far north of Chicago and Gary Indiana heard it.

Smaller detonations were heard at Kankakee but these may have been from the lightning flash.

from the tongue and rock 3377. where came the loudness of the thunder. When the tongue fell to the ground and "HOW" the most conspicuous evidence of the strength of the "tongue" blast which also wrought also so much mechanical destruction is furnished by a statue of very large size of the Blessed Virgin referred to before. Because of its twelve foot height and weight it seemed impossible to have occurred but it still lays face downward in the fields near the Gleason Asylum.

The statue composed of underlaid of iron and measuring twelve feet in height and nearly more than ten feet in (circumstances) or circumference at the shoulders and weighing 2500 tons was swept from its pedestal and carried north eastward about 2500 hundred or more.

It yet though wasn't damaged. The pedestal made of thick strong marble and firmly cemented deep in the ground was uprooted and carried into what is left of the grounds of the Gleason Asylum current foundation slots of ground and all.

All evidence collected in this connection cannot here be presented at this meeting now, but it really

3378 indicates that the blast of that "Tornado" which wrought the havoc referred to passed through the city of Gleason on the northeast stretch with the fullest most tornado force ever known. They told me important electric studies are still being made by officials of electric experts on the vicinity.

It is an interesting consideration that the mancomographs on or near the cities closest to the "mad cap Princes" were made useless during the wild insane rage of the tornado.

Strange unexplained magnetic storm probably accompanied tornado a record breaking fury.

Sat. I said the Professor continuing: "Mr Otto Dittmann Superintendent of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey reported that the delicately suspended magnetic needles at the two Coast and Geodetic Survey magnetic observatories, the one situated at Cheltenham Md. 16 miles southeast of Wash. Washington and the other at Baldwin Keenaw 17 miles south of Lawrence were badly and roughly disturbed beginning about twenty five after four at the time of

the awful catastrophe is 3379 reported to have occurred when Gleason all the way to New York State was devastated. The "Tornado" horror struck Gleason at quarter after four and at St. Patrick Steeple Clock was stopped at ten after four, though the Church was not on the path of the tornado.

The great magnetic disturbance began at the Cheltenham Observatory at the time corresponding to ten after four, and continued for hours as far as the cyclone traveled.

And at the Baldwin Observatory quarter after four Gleason time. This disturbance was also registered in New Orleans

San Antonio Texas and in Tucson Arizona."

Professor said another: "I too have something to say. Mr Dwyer was right. There was evidence of gaseous substance in the lower part of this maelstrom of the air. There is plenty of direct oral testimony of gas within the lower section of the vortex, as the people who witnessed it were students of gaseous phenomena.

All silverware was in the ruins at Gleason and Cheltenham was strangely blackened, notably the buckets of plates rescued from the ruined Gleason Sacred Heart Convent which resembled old black junk. Those who escaped

3388 to the basement of the Convent
identified many got rich, or suffered
head ache from the smell of gas
during the storm. Many big or small
silver platters by a score of hundreds
picked up here and there were black
and corrugated.

A large bronze image was likewise
blackened, besides a silver image of
St. Vincent, and gold image of St. Michael
the Archangel. In fact every metal
relic susceptible to gases sulphur discol-
oration, showed its blackening effect even
small things from what was left of large
shattered trees showed a black coating.

The presence of Sewer and other pipe
gases, may be reasonably inferred at
that.

All street Sewers in the path of
this immeasurable twister had a great
number of gas pipe connections as well
as the devastated homes and other buildings
had gas. And remember gas tanks
were torn to pieces, especially a large 20
story high one. How this could have happened
no one can explain unless it was
because of the "Superman" speed of the
whirl.

The speed of the tremendous whirl
from friction with the air blow north
east breeze must have also

heated the lower part of the 3381
tornado cloud, like super-heated steam
so the burning of so many persons
killed or injured bodies through their
clothing without setting fire to the clothing
indicated the funnel cloud was heated like
steam in a boiler, and the great rain
of wet mud that followed with the
falling debris during the catastrophe,
from the upper big tornado cloud might
theoretically be assigned to the condensation
of the funnels superheated steam in the
whirling twister, which instead of weakening it,
turned it into a holy terror.

Force, unbelievable.

A most tremendous force of rushing
wind, yet most destructional force ever
recorded and probably never will again
again ever occur, at least I hope.

It didn't leave a tree behind no
matter how big or strongly rooted,
or if it did, left them standing
looking like telephone poles denuded
of all the branches and bark. Down
sidewalks, fire hydrants, asphalt from
the streets and rail tracks of street
car lines. Trolley wires and poles
disappeared to the four winds.

It totally destroyed the biggest
and tallest buildings or at least the

3383 bigger and stronger they were. the worse they got it. It threw people about like broom straws and all types of heavy objects overturned or carried away. pleasure ships in the river and down destroyed all type of iron picket fences like very weak thread or string. It was impossible to conceive that this record breaking force was initial from the "tongue".

"A little strangling I girl child's tongue" Oh what a delicate little tongue! "So delicate and weak" that it wiped out the Gleason Orphanage, carried away into nothingness three quarters of the Chester Brown Sacred Heart Convent with all its inmates, wiped out the magnificent parks and 30 animals, devastated the mighty Super Market, wiped out St Vincent's Church and the Angel Guardian Orphan Asylum and turned Chester Brown into a wide stream channel hell.

Some "longue". It carried a six ton Sacred Heart statue two and a half miles in five miles distance, throwing it off and leaving it badly damaged striking on its head

The force aerial not terrestrial. Tops of walls were carried to the

3384
four wind foundations tore out of the ground pedestals uprooted with statues blown away far or pedestals in some cases also rigging and upper works of ships blown off and shredded. ships hulls heeled over. The stones on which sailors stood on were torn asunder and thrown great distances.

The immense statue of the virgin as observed by Professor Turner near St Patrick's Church in the front of the devastated Rectory was thrown three thousand five hundred yards to the northeast with her head lying to the east, face down.

Many of the largest trees denuded of all their bark and most of their branches were thrown northeast in every direction and every which way although some big city fumes were sufficiently rooted to partially withstand the force but to lose most of their branches and be denuded of all their bark and trunks badly split.

On the north side of the river some thirty feet away north of Gleason are thousands of tin roofs. Where they came from no one knows.

On a low low cliff line above Gleason are still standing with their branches

1385 still on covered with foliage
a line of houses not belong-
ing to Gleason still intact showing the
edge of the storm did not hit there.
Mr George Prudence was thrown down on
his face his wife on top of him, yet
they were not in the path of the awful
stemwinder.

The shock of the tornado vibrating the
air was felt as far as 7 miles to the
west and Rock Island also where Father
Frank Mulhern was thrown down.

"Was the action of the stemwinder
unusual?" asked the Professor.

"It is hard to say" he answered.
"The savage whirl was very peculiar.
Witnesses say. According to Jack
Evans there was a great horizontal
disturbance of the deep under river water
caused by the twister aerial force."

This struck the port quarter of the
ship "Little Nell" her head being
to the east. She keeled to star-
board by the force of the wind
so that the ship's bridge got under
water and water got into the
hold through the ship's fiddlers.
The force of the swell lifted
the ship Helen Anderson and
she was carried for miles
down the course of the river.

and finally wedged into 3386
demolished stone bridge.

The direction of the force
was radial apparently from
its center.

In the south end of the city of
Gleason objects and wreckage were
blown and flying northward by
unreasonable force from the southwest
the north and south ends of the biggest
buildings partially left standing but
physical wrecks blown in and roofs
standing on end.

The (Angel) Sacred Heart convent was
strange to say struck straight from the
southwest, the Rectory and statue of the
St Patrick Church was destroyed by force
from the east, trees in the vicinity of
the river were carried by force from
the southeast, and all foliage lower
slopes of the eastern ground near Gleason
Caylin were destroyed by wind force
from West of North. It seems a
strange way the twister churned
it did really whirl that way.
Some believe it lost a
lot of its downward course there
having then no controller. That is

3387 was why it had such re-
and breaking strength.

The center of force.

This "swim" to have been near the southwest end of the city where destruction was greatest yet for the effects increasing in all directions. Among the evidences of immeasurable force are the fact that in the northeastern part of the city the biggest tallest and strongest buildings were absolutely pulverized.

Struck first not a vestige was left of the poor little town of Johnson or its inhabitants southwest of the city.

It is said not a far piece could be found of the haymarket factory with its heavy iron machinery and castings.

Strange return force.

A peculiarly strange return force is evidenced by the south & north ends of buildings. Bloom southward and by the testimony of witnesses. Father James Devine three blocks northeast even though not in its path who was knocked down

by the attraction pull says 3388 "a strange breeze springing up from the northeast following the passing of the twister and revived me".

Engineer Evans says that the force had the strength and pull of a thousand and eighty foot tidal wave and noted that it went out and came back.

All who met in the path of this insane twister testified that though a block away that they were violently pushed down by the strange air following after it. No evidence of vertical concussion was noticed or recorded beyond the wild phenomenon of the surrounding country.

The farm buildings small or long covered or iron frame bridges, board bridges and earth embankments within a quarter of a mile of the "longue" zone of unspeakable disaster showed no disturbance. People similarly located testified there was no twister of any kind trying to cross the river or railroad and that this awful tornado followed the course of both

3389 and which is strangest off
kept all the way it traveled on
straight Bee line which no
"tornado" never did before.
"oh yeah?" I exclaimed. I have with
me a book on the Omaha Tornado and
the Daton flood of Ohio. It got a
map in it showing that that
mat. wild tornado before hitting
Palston which it wiped off the map
traveled from there all the way through
Omaha and far north of there on
a straight bee line. I'm showing
you this map now.

It came distance south west of
little Palston it made a long
bee line curve south west towards
slight north west towards the Berner
Park district then curving towards
the Florence suburbs. It entered
South Omaha through the stock
yards wiping out everything its
path there and after leaving
up Florence it changed its
course going northeast heading
for Evanston. Evanston Ill. It
never zigzagged once. It had I believe
the same force as this one
but had a much or shatter
stretch of buildings to smash
up.

I see you are right. 3390
said the proffessor. But it
had no more curve to it.
"yes it did" I said. "If it had not
it would have missed Crestview
and Jameville."

Then he continued. Is there any
other explanation of this force that
the wildest fury of the twister causing
this?

Strange exhaustion of
the air.

Many witnesses on the perimeter of
the disaster testified that they were
not suffocated by the shroud of the
twister or detectable gases but could
get no air to breathe. This
language or words to its effects is
the testimony of every witness from
the intelligent police officers, mail
men, post office shipping clerks
and Parcel Post deliveries to the
humble home home dweller a
block away east of the sternwinder.
Engineer Evans of the St
Joseph Hospital P over here three
blocks away to the southeast also
stated that he could get no air
to breathe outside the building.

3391 after the rushing part of the
tornado until she quickly went
below into the boiler room. Chapman
Evans of Michal Walse Antate said
it was not hard to breathe until
all doors nearly over them we felt as
if we could get no air. It struck and
wiped out completely the Entate and its
immediate surrounding. but passed me
a hundred yards distant. It strange
attraction pulled me violently face
downward and she started to drag
me swiftly towards the tornado but
I saved myself by grabbing the
lowest part of a cherry tree and
hanging on with all my might.

The Mayor of Gleason tells
he does not believe the
tornado struck the city went a
glancing blow and tells
why.

"He said as we all paid strict
attention in very quietness;
"all this fuss is about nothing
at all" he said facing us
all unabashed. So the tornado
struck us a glancing blow. There
is no one can prove it only

3392
struck us a glancing blow
no one has any right to make
a light of it. I don't think the district
if you like, examine the course of the
storm see how far it traveled, but
you won't find it struck any glanc-
ing blow. Look in the length of
the destroyed sections and you will
find its too long a path of destruct-
ion to call it a glancing blow.
It was never such a thing so?
demand that anyone who here in this
room believes in a freak up."

At a signal from the Chapman
another member arose.

I would mention and fellow citizens
he began. "these newspapers have
before you says the tornado struck a
glancing blow at some fair city. In
either way a grave disaster has
hit our city which deserves more
investigation. The papers here claim
it true that the water only struck
a glancing blow. I can see my-
self the whole situation in my
eyes. minds eyes creeping steadily
towards our fair city and striking
off like a person who strikes
with his fist but his fingers

33 3393 And now fellow citizens of
this unusual meeting I assert
that it is by the papers but a
glancing blow and yet with my
mind's eye I can see the ferocious
tornado after hitting a blow, sweeping
off and head for the sky. I can
see her in my mind's eye glance
off.

"What's that?" asked.

"I can see her strike a glancing
blow in my mind's eye."

The fellow members listened to
this argument and wondered at the
man who believed everything the
main paper said. But the Mayor
sat motionless and it was I who
answered the man.

"So the tornado struck this city
a mere glancing blow - eh?" I said.

"Well, maybe it has. I can also see
by my own mind's eye that it
actually did a sort of glancing
blow that a prize fighter re-
cieves when he is losing the
bout. It's also a real glancing
blow like when a foot ball
is kicked and instead of you
catching it it gives you a good
smack in the face so again

by my own mind's eye 3394
it has received thrice
the 'glancing' blow that Omaha
received during the tornado of Easter
Sunday March the 23. Estimates
of the value of property demolished by
the storm at Omaha alone are estimated
at twelve million dollars.

What about our Gleason city. Our
loss of property is forty here is
reported at forty five million dollars.
I call that a glancing blow. Surely,
this city's Mayor knows different.

I believe you're a stranger here.
You and so you don't know
that nothing can be hidden from
the watchful eyes of the Mayor,
or from my watchful eyes.

I took at this map I have of
the course the tornado took and tell
me if it struck a glancing blow.

Tell me. Took at this a hundred
and fifty two were killed at Omaha
and fifteen hundred were made
homeless.

Five hundred and sixty five
were killed here, 200 injured
died later near 10,000 were
made homeless. And you call
this a glancing blow. Aside from

33 3394 from this 3000 buildings in Omaha were more or less damaged many of these being churches and school buildings. That nothing to what happened here sixty thousand buildings were wiped out 5000 buildings are so terribly wrecked they'll have to be torn down and 33,000 are more or less damaged. All forms of communication are completely annihilated.

7 The destruction began with the millionaire homes in the exclusive West Gleason and Humboldt districts but further northeast and along these river and railroad right of way the strongest buildings collapsed more easily or were swept away and a very large number of deaths resulted.

As this map shows the stretch of Gleason covered by the tornado reaches from the northwest limits of Elston to the suburb of Denton near the Gleason Ophan Asylum eighteen street twelve miles north of where the storm first came in. The storm according to this map swept the north of the

from northwest to north 3396 east for its entire length following the Magnolian River and adjoining along the devastated Railroad tracks. The southern half of the city generally composing the business section, was out of the path of the storm but suffered greatly from so much debris hurled off from itself so far by the storm.

On the map shows the residential section on the outward section of the storm was badly damaged. Also a great number of outlying business thoroughfares was also in the destroyed area of the outer part of the twist.

West of Western Ave the greater part of the damage was done, it being in the center of the corner of the storm also Elston a north and south cross town street extending the entire length of the western part of the city.

There were many retail stores and numerous streets in this section with the residence portions of the city scattered in intervening sections. Destruction here was unconscionable.

Many of the best parks

3397 If this city are located within the district covered Hanoona Park situated near where the storm came in was totally damaged all the trees uped out, and Wenthworth Park one of the show parks of the city was struck with such incane force as to practically wipe it out.

Another area or part of the area covered by the storm is according to this map located between ^{North} West Halsted West Webster, Fullerton, West North and Gleason Avenue; and South twenty fourth street on the west to eighteenth street also on the west. This is the most thickly populated residence district in the west of the city and contained 75 of the largest public and other type of schools some Catholic Anglican Methodist and Lutheran. Many of the large Churches of all denominations are or were in that part of the city. Gleason University was in the path of the storm. All these Churches, schools and the University are no more and you call this a glancing blow. All electric light and trolley were carried away by the storm so that all homes, factories and public

buildings have no light, so at night. And all work at night had to be done by lanterns and you call this a glancing blow. Set a foot ball hit you a smacking blow in the face and tell me if that is a glancing blow. Then when the terrific whirling "Cloud Tongue" finally left Gleason at North Avenue, it wiped out the Gleason Orphan Asylum demolished the Rock Island Roundhouse, leveled the big long trestle of the Illinois Central building and then headed for that railroad siding at north of Buffalo Rock town, and then headed hell bent for Chesterbourn which in propriety it wiped. Glancing blow in Poo.

Instantaneous force

All witnesses said another member of the meeting testified to the sudden and instantaneous force of the twister. Father James Danner noticed that it swept rapidly from Southwest to Northeast. Its path all of even the strongest buildings were destroyed, but in the center of the storm nearly every thing was wiped out. Iron bridges were taken away. Yet as many as possible who turned the storm by their watches as it came

3399: and went. They blame the whole catastrophe from beginning to end was over in less than a minute and sixteen seconds, though the path of destruction was a mile and three quarters wide.

Succeeding rain of all sorts of debris, animals and even skeletons, clots of dirt and fragments of houses over a wide territory.

"Immediately following the destruction" said the Mayor "It was reported that strange as it was there was a rain of thick masses of mud, fishes and frogs, debris from buildings of all kinds, trunks and branches of all kinds, skeleton and whole fragments of buildings of all kinds. The falling mud clots plastered objects of all kind upon which it fell with a thick coating cement like substance, houses, river ships, heads of human beings, the tops of street cars, etc. etc. and streets as far as 90 feet from Chicago. So Hulls, Gleason and as far as Bloomington.

Some of the landscape was every where partially coated with an envelope of this strange mud from the upper dry cloud, falling out so far from

This strange rain of mud continued for four hours after the passing of the tongue. Even dead horses, cows, chickens, dogs and cats, birds of all kind even all sorts of house hold goods, pianos and wardrobes, shattered trunks of trees, everything you think of fell from the sky over a wide territory.

This rain of debris is strongly, very strongly suggestive of all that the "demon storm" pulled up into the upper atmosphere and then as a source of the strange and extensive debris downpour.

Accompanying this rain of everything including the mud was a shower of fragments of steel bridges, covered bridges, telephone telegraph wires and poles, railroad ties and all that type of stones between them. There stones were without the slightest doubt those which had been sucked higher into the air from the trains than the other sucked ejecta and which with a long trajectory came down later.

These stones falling on the soft plastering of the landscape, blew shells, rolled down the low slopes stripping the plaster with their parallel paths as if it had been raked with a coarse comb.

Clocks of all kinds, bell, iron, brass, etc. stuff from stationary stores, books, and

3400 water and oil color drawing paper
and oil painting canvases, sheets and
artistic materials of all kind known
to the artists. This did not only come
from Gleason alone, but from everywhere the
twister went. Yet where it got the
strange mud, nobody knows.

It even rained dead men and children
manichens merchandise from hardware
stores, pictures tables and accompanied by
a dust storm so thick you could not see
five feet.

Death

Death was an accompaniment of any of the
phenomena of the "Tongue" described and
without the slightest doubts occurred in many
ways, and in different degrees of sudden
ness. Many were killed by inhaling the
hot winds of the tornado notably in the
center of the burnt twister others burned by
sudden down the schools wiped out others
burned by the cloud of steam heated upon
of the funnel caused by its exceedingly
wild speed of its whirl others killed by
the terrible force of the winds or their
bodies torn apart others singed by the
heat of the wind as if from a flame.

Nearly all burning of the
injured survivors from the action

all did not die instantly. 3806
The burns of the injured according
to the doctors were of the first de-
gree affecting only the epidermis. There
were also some burns of the true skin.
The eyes of the many wounded were not
affected and the eye eye lashes intact
on the other hand remains on even the
outer circle of the twister were horribly
burned to the quick.

Officer Henry Walter Scott of the
Gleason Main Police station tells of
many injured children who moaned for
water "unable to swallow because of heat
which singed their throats. One rinsed out
his mouth but could not swallow on
account of the hot air from the twister
which burned his throat. In a short
time he died.

It is not true that all those killed
died by violently being flung away in
the parks or from asphyxiation in the
position in which the cataclysm surprised
them. Many were found in positions
indicating desperate frantic flight from
the storm and search for shelter.

All those who so mysteriously dis-
appeared with the upper grades of the
of the Sacred Heart Convents were
no inhabitants of Chesterlain, but
came from all over and therefore

33 3402 were not counted in the city
loss. The Captain of a river ex-
ception river ships told me he
saw crowds of people running through
the streets ahead of the storm until
the winds caught them and carried or flung
them forth like hay or straw. It is said a
man in Gleason was found dead among the
wreckage in the act of twirling his must-
ache, another with his hand holding his
corn-cob pipe.

A witness told me he saw in Chesterbourn
a man holding a struggling wagon
horse, both dead in this position six
blocks away from the spot. It is stated
that dozens of children were burned in-
ternally by the winds heat.

It is said those crowds in the parks
could have escaped in the parks if they
had not stood "gawking" at the approaching
storm. There were cyclone proof shelters
in the parks. Had they fled to these
they would not have perished all there.
In the parks consist of the dead and
also miserably mangled. The cyclone
shelters were still intact. Oh those
foolish people.

The effect of the tornado which have
taken place and too up dozens of farm-
like winds scatter straw are so
intermingled that it is difficult of

not impossible to distin- 3403
guish them. Yet none of us
has explained about what caused
the forming of that awful cloud
head and its protruding tongue."
"That we will come to later" said
the Professor, who was really leading
the meeting. "We've got to think of the
fury of the storm to help if possible
the solving of the mystery."

Extent and phenomena of
the Gleason Asylum, the worst
Horror next to that of the
Sacred Heart Convent. Why too
the head of the Asylum thought
it would be missed.

The Professor continued:
"The area of devastation or severely mangled
on the territory between Gleason City
and the Asylum represents the effects
of all the wild storms of the tornado
As a whole this area and the Asylum
belonged to Gleason City, not the State,
and included all the territory between
Gleason City and So. Dale, (which latter was
but first) bounded by the East and
west rolling hill like country not
far from Buffalo Rock. I am previously

33 7404 mentioned in the description of the configuration as constituting the amphitheater of death as it did not avenge the death dealing storm as the Asylum head thought it would do. His mistake has made him a bed ridden cripple for life.

The area practically includes the Country also between Johnson town and Blanche Moulage on the south west and the Illinois River on the straight north, with the addition of two river prolongation southward of the Rock Island tracks which lead straight Eastward turning Northeast past Chester chire and then I believe Northward towards Chicago.

Instead of this configuration of land being a header off it was really a deadly menace to the Asylum.

A proof of this coming horror there extended or now extends the small remains of what was once the most magnificent and costly highway probably in the whole Country. It was called the Gleason National Highway. Its macadamized surface is almost gone and covered to a depth of three feet of the ground which the

incredible "Tongue" plowed up and scattered. 3,405' high way run through this supposed safe protective territory. The superintendent of the Asylum had said This territory from the conglomeration of its ground is our real protector. No tornado will ever hit here?

The real truth is this this type of ground was the cause of the wiping out of the Asylum. The tornado after tearing through Northeast Gleason did apparently bounce off as they say. At this moment the Asylum was not in its path.

From Johnson to Gleason the storm then was not moving on a bee line course. If it had been Gleason City would have been only slightly side swiped. Not with a zigzag but in a long curve it made for Gleason. Had it not been for that configuration of ground it from Gleason who would have remained its course from there and then the Asylum and Chesterlain all the way to the Northeast would have been spared.

But instead of turning it aside,

33 3406 on the asylum head thought the formation of the landscape drew it from Gleason to the great highway which it followed and wiped out all the way to Zanerille. And this is what is called the Rebound.

This being pulled off its course as you call it, probably cause it to show violent objections by losing its 'temper'.

When hitting Gleason it was bad enough then, but heading for the Asylum it must have had an explosive temper for you all know the appalling results.

And the superintendent because of the information of the territory thought the Asylum would be missed, yet the nature of the ground pulled the tornado to itself.

All the buildings are gone. Even outside the Asylum grounds in the area beyond the slight rise of ground there is not a visible sign remaining of one of the beautiful buildings of the 3500 who inhabited them. While some remnants of the strong stone building remains in the ground, annihilation is the only descriptive

term, and the annihilation extends northeast to three miles of the Asylum. Of course in this case there was no disappearance of the children or the employees as in the disaster of the Sacred Convent but the inmates were scattered far and wide and it even took the hundreds of rescuers seven days to locate and gather up the eight hundred surviving injured. The rest perished all being killed.

The employees survived but are still hospitalized seriously injured.

The superintendent the doctors saw will be bedridden all his life. His wife who tried to save the children in spite of his foolish whims is also crippled, but will be able to walk again.

Horns denuding of the remains of the big trees with standing the Tupper.

Over this entire area all biggest trees is entirely denuded even the largest trees not escaping still in the ground but uprooted in slantwise position, all stripped

3408

of all leaves and twigs and bark only the tunted split trunks and broken larger limbs remaining. On the north edge of the river above the Asylum grounds all trees with foliage slightly ripped remain standing missed by the storm. It protected lateral grounds other vegetation is still green, while killed on exposed roadways above them.

The vegetation to the south of the grounds was killed or swept away and to the east vegetation was blasted away as far northeast as the southwestern edge of the vast playgrounds which were plowed up five feet deep.

Everything still remaining is still also denuded broken down three or four feet from the ground and lie to the eastward. Near what had been the main front entrance of the Asylum is the wreck of one of the biggest and tallest oak trees ever seen; its broad buttressing torn up roots yet still anchored partly into the ground on the verge of what where the front entrance had been and its blasted branches all denuded lifted like appealing

arms heavenward. All the 3809 bark of the trunk is gone and it is split almost in two. Not far from the asylum lies that statue of the Blessed Virgin. That statue shows the most conspicuous evidence of the strength of the wind blast which wrought such mechanical destruction.

That statue though no one else has yet seen it, composed of under-stand of valuable pyron the heaviest iron there is lies beyond the asylum grounds. It measures over 13 feet in height and nearly 12 feet in circumference at the shoulders and weighing three tons was swept from its marble pedestal and carried northward more than thirteen hundred yards.

The pedestal was uprooted and carried still further but more to the abrupt in the west. All the evidence collected in this connection cannot here be presented but it indicates that the blast which wrought this havoc referred to passed through Gleason with stronger force

3410 than a dozen violent tornados
put all together in one.

A startling but probably
interesting and exciting late
"summer shower" hot rains.

The whole eastern country side has
as described before received heavy
showers of everything you can
think of from the aggregate tornado
"tongue". These debris showers was
not conspicuous or discoloring how-
ever except from shattered all type
of wall paint or plastering.

It was noticed in a more dom-
inished degree as far as Bloomington.

The quantity and extent of the
debris, hurled far over the country
side by the upper cloud cannot
be estimated nor is it material
to do so at present.

Showers of stones the size of
a hens egg or larger fell upon
the roofs of all surviving buildings
at La Salle and Gleason and
other places. Even on the roofs of
hospitals and other institutions.

The falling sounded like large
hail and tore the leaves from
the trees also snapping

small branches and break-
ing windows and roof shy-
lights. These stones as I ascertained
by personal collection the following
late evening were old crystalline

rock not from any soil or hills and
its a mystery where they came from
and the mud too.

It is also that the downpour of all
sorts of debris which would take an hour
to describe here at this meeting averaged
376 tons to the square mile.

A murmur of surprise and almost
doubt came from the members.

"But it is true" I put in. "I am surprised
the storm didn't take all of the debris
into the upper atmosphere it was so
recoiling strong. It is now evident
however that the destruction from
Johnson town, to Terre Haute, and all
the way into New York State
viewed from a broader standpoint
than human disaster was but an

episode in a group of general
phenomena constituting the August 15-
1913 tornado probably more violent
than the Montagne Pelée eruption
of May 8, 1902 and that yet the
fury of this "tongue" as it is
called is but an episode in a series
of strange events which having

3410 been taking place before the tongue became such an incredible twist, set us then forget if possible for a moment the great and unusual catastrophe and consider the phenomenon as a whole of the real cause. This is why we have this meeting.

1. That the form of the head of the strangling child is one of the most remarkable and astonishing phenomena on record. Only two others have done the same, the St Louis Tornado and Kansas City But never like this one.

2. That the protruding tongue acted very strange according to eye-witnesses and the neck under the chin is squeezing in tightly while the lower bigger cloud had been successively forming into the strangest shapes on its western side and was in frightful convulsions.

3. Some say it made a noise like crying for vengeance from the heavens. That from the open clouds mouth came a sound as if a half choking cough followed by a loud haul.

4. That the tongue coming

3412
swiftly down a very long starting one with the head lifting up a little was of a explosive wind-type and the globe at its extremity burst like a volcanic eruption and formed that high queer shroud.

5. That no historic tornadoes have ever taken place that can compare to this one. It is hard to solve this mystery if not impossible.

The geology of the freak cloud head as outlined with the protruding tongue shows that the phenomenon was not exactly a new one as two other tornadoes came from similar phenomena and that this present but more striking phenomenon at the first time of its formation instead of being sudden and a new phenomena turned into a maximum hour after the reported second breaking lightning and loud-thunder and the main cloud connecting with the neck turned into the maximum convulsions of a series of violent spasmodic conditions which continued through a short period of time. The head like cloud from which the disastrous St Louis tornado came

3413 from and carried all before it like an express train running much produced similar phenomena and affected a similar area and killed nearly a thousand people in St Louis alone, not counting those in East St Louis next hit.

The geological structure of the protruding tongue of this one shows in its still more stretching out that the interior process had been going on before the forming of the head. The first important deduction then is that the whole phenomena of the cloud head is the repetition of events which have taken place at St Louis, Kansas city and Omaha at the same localities and that the "mechanism" of the tongue is not old neither the same heads and lateral big black tough acting black clouds.

So far as recorded as we can see in this picture I drew and painted, the strange phenomena is the same kind as this one, except the head was of a boy and young woman.

The "boy" was an unspeakable terror and I wonder that St Louis ever recovered from the

disastrous blow Kansas city and Omaha too. No town or cities of any kind have been formed like this one before. The principal feature of this cloud is the face, open mouth and tongue sticking out as if from a child being strangled. Simply a phenomenon which I assume cannot be perfectly explained.

The tongue suddenly turned into a long whirling wide vertical tube extending downward gradually to the ground south west of Johnson town and which widest current of air ascended in its interior as a great column of superheated air from the dreadful speed of its whirl.

If it did have any sort of downward current as those who claim, it surely had not the slightest effect on this one. The head then made the biggest cloud become the upper part of the whirlpool.

The fact that the roar of the storm shock shook houses and towns like an earthquake miles away shows that the forces within the center of the twister were most exceptionally severe. In fact no severe as to blot little Johnson town off the map with deadly effect.

3415 Then on to Gleason like the
furies of Hell. No evidence has
yet been deduced showing that the
tornado was immediately being pro-
ceeded by, or has resulted in any hail
storm with hail as big as reported
in any section of country on the
path of the twister on rain either which
could have caused any to form.
neither is there in the structure and
and geographical positions of the land-
scape southwest or west of the
Gleason Asylum, any condition which
enables us to believe could turn aside
the twister from the asylum which
would produce what the stupid and
overconfident superintendent thought
would happen.

The conical long stretch of the
funnel, its configuration of shape as it fell
to the ground, the repetition of its head
shape on its full course at the
same locus, the absence of its down-
ward current and conspicuous motion
of the still remaining head the
failure of other conspicuous symptoms
it should have, indicates that
the shape of the twister and its
record breaking length also
again indicated that the shape of

the ascending current or as you 3416
call it the vacuum had no downward
controlling current as would have
been the case of most all other
twisters. The control might have failed
because of its unusual length and also
the "ball" interfered with the current.
Thus this severe condition caused
this "tongue" to really win the
worlds (sweepstock?) sweepstakes as
being the strongest, fiercest and
most savage twister of all time.

The horror of August 15 1913
which is still feared will happen
again this year some other place
has been of most progressive intensity
for its full course.

Conspicuous activity of the main
cloud suggestive of intense fury
was first observed on the large
black cloud connecting with the
neck.

This phenomena even before the
tongue came down from concussion
shook the dishes in the shelves
in the houses of La Salle Gleason
and elsewhere and which were un-
doubtedly produced by the first
audible noise of the storm in form-
ing within the tongue and throat
of the head from the ascending

3417: column of air coming not in any descending current from above. What effect the tornado and controls it is that the descending current is much stronger than the ascending current. A descending current too strong kills it, and up to the main cloud it came down from it goes back.

And the twister is through. There is one bad thing about twisters and its descending currents. It must not be cold. If so a conflict will occur between the cold and the warm like between steam pipes, and the tornado will be worst than ever."

The President of the meeting then said:

Relation to the tornado disaster at St Louis.

The synchronism of this head longee tongue tornado with that of St Louis and tornadoes of a similar explosive wind andesitic character elsewhere throughout central United States to say nothing of tornado disturbances in southern ill repeated in lower tornado area throughout Texas and other southern states is strangely suggestive that the cause of this

tornado was not the cause or 3418 development of a local conflict of a local opposition of cold and hot currents out side of the second thunder storm, but upon the contrary resulted from a widely occurrence, occurring disturbance of the same kind between the two thunder storms, and within the interior of the strange cloud head which caused the hot August summer heat to rise too suddenly to meet the upper cold wet zone between the two storms, rather than the cooler air of the coming cool spell to descend into it and which is as yet according to tornado experts inexplicable.

Importance of the strange electric and magnetic phenomena

Finally beginning of this tornado were phenomena, awful lightning from the tongue, magnetism, hot winds which while not occurring for the first time have been very, very, conspicuously brought to our immediate attention and may lead to important deductions upon the origin of the strange violent

3418 cloud head bringing the origin of the magnetic storm and the violent nature of the tornado violent interior.

Resume.

An awful number of people from Johnson town all the way to Terre Haute estimated probably over six thousand were exterminated within a few minutes in each town one after the other and some of the towns set on fire especially La Salle by the unusual heat of the over speed of the whirling wind whirlpool.

Only the quick coming of the second rain storm saved La Salle from a fatal conflagration. The Chestnut-brown was saved from a conflagration by the same cause.

The fatal funnel was the tongue coming down in the form of a very long water spout at sea and dropped to the ground four miles south west of Little Johnson town towards which it swiftly headed.

Strangely the smells coming after the receding storm were not of sulphur and electrical.

There was the most record

force ever known accompanying the tornado of that August 15th and of the most destructive nature ever seen before which left much evidence that the tornado had lost entirely its downward current and that the ball at the lower lower extremity had exploded into a wild whirl of wind after having reached the ground.

Before the tongue turned into the funnel the violent disturbances in the head and tongue were accompanied by tremendous lightning and the loudest thunder man ever heard.

During the flashes of this awful lightning a great strange magnetic storm accompanied the wild devastating storm all the distance it traveled, which was recorded as imminent before at remote points and which indicated a connection between the lightning and the overwhelming electrical condition of the storm.

In connection with the strange magnetic phenomena of this most dangerous storm of all it is interesting to note that a number of this meeting has presented a drawing showing the relation

33 of the St. Louis tornado and of Kansas
3420 and their cause of violent eruptions
of debris by the extremely strong
winds to the present period of history
between two thunderstorms, why? No
one knows. Of thirty eight tornadoes
before this one came on, only two
began with heads with the appearance
of strangling children
and one of a woman and near the
maximum of the tongues.
But yet none of these were found
between two thunderstorms, or anywhere
near or in one.

There is some evidence that the
tornado winds were dangerously hot to
singling. All the evidence indicates
that the fatal force of the tornado
were not from the ball shaped form
at the extremity of the funnel
itself. All the circumstances or
circumstantial evidence and much of
the direct, strongly indicate that the
destruction was caused by the lower
portion of the funnel itself, falling
first to the ground about four miles
northwest of Little Johnson Town and
some distance westward of
Gleason city.

After wiping out Johnson
town, and killing three quarters

quarter of its inhabitants, had 3421
it stayed on the original course, it
he ran on, Gleason city would have
been missed, and all the others
spared too.

Choice of theories of the catastrophe.

The foregoing data and essential facts
concerning the great catastrophe have
not attempted to write first nor do I
wish to obscure the understanding of
the dreadful events by the individual
interpretation and hypotheses.

Nevertheless it may not be at all
presumptuous to suggest that terrific
most inevitable force death and whole
scale fatality in all the places in its
path may ultimately be explained
by either of two theories.

The horrible record breaking strength
and variable force and wind blast
theory. This hypothesis assumed that
the winds were sufficiently strong
enough to have carried all before it
and destroyed so many people
by all a tornado may do. It also
accounts for the forces of wind
exerted radially and horizontally

3422 and the ring of the wind.
The aerial wind 'explosion' theory. The explosive like forces of the gale within the funnel would account for all the destructive phenomena observed. The aerial explosion of the wind, if it occurred was most probably the awful onrushing forward vacuum of the extremity or lower part of the funnel pulling forward along the surface of the ground, but tornado science is still unable to state its unusual nature.

The discussion of explosive like force of the winds involves a line of scientific speculation which the investigators do not possess, but as sudden and mysterious as was the great secret, it has left its traces and clues which the detectives of tornado and other windstorm science will have to follow up soon. And then there were those frightful long lighting flashes and such awfully loud thunder from the protruding tongue. What of them and their igniting power. And how about the head? Well that mystery even be solved? Every one was silent.

Was unfortunate 342?
Chester Brown, a desolated city of St. Pierre, Ill.?

"I was one who went to see the ruins of Chester Brown" said the Professor. Outside of the number of survivors, mostly in that big "University" hospital like the ruined city torn up by the tornado lay before us silent, desolate and differently colored with the strange dust from unknown sources that covered the upper portions.

Not a person was in sight, and not a living thing was seen during our clamor over ruined walls and the widely scattered debris, except the members of our own company.

It is not all necessary fellow members at this time to attempt to describe the details of the scenes that met our view as we passed in prayerful silence over the dust and rubbish from which hundreds of injured human beings had been rescued by rescue workers and which the unknown number of dead still lay buried as this already been well told in the daily press.

33 3424 We glanced aside on passing
the grim remnants of what on
the dark rainy afternoon of August
fifteenth were living women men and
children still beneath the wreckage
Here and there were large groups
of men silently but desperately strug-
gling to free them. We could not aid
in the work of cremation going on here
and there and avoided so far as it
was possible the gruesome sight still
lingering

Even what had been the tallest and
biggest brick structures were leveled
to the ground. This tornado did here
what seems impossible. On passing
to the higher portion of the city
however, where the relief workers
had not yet been able to perform
their humanitarian work the piles of dead
could not be avoided.

The best general impression of
the present condition of Chester Brown
can perhaps be described from the long
straight rise of ground at the middle
section of the city where the big park
was and what now is what is left
of the great once magnificent Sacred
Heart Convent which from a distance
looks like some great ship wreck. In

front of what is left of 3425
the convent there formerly stood
a colossal 14 feet statue of the
Sacred Heart of Jesus near the vacant
but badly uprooted pedestal of the
statue are the wreck of a long line of
of the biggest and tallest trees I've ever
seen their broad buttressing roots
way out of the ground and the trees
standing badly inclined in every
direction and denuded off all the
bark.

The upper parks were broken off like
pope stumps. There are very few left
of their blasted branches. They are
wrecked beyond recognition so we did
not know what kind they were.

There were thirty of them, and once in
a straight neat row.

From beneath any of these once
magnificent trees, eyes no doubt
of Convent children once glanced
after over the peaceful city with all
its beautiful magnificent buildings and
the parks on the days before the
first awful big thunder storm, followed
the beautiful Lincoln Park northeast
of the Convent, to beyond other sections
of Chester Brown. All those poor children, nuns and

3426 employees who last saw that fair picture of the beautiful river animated city verdure, covered light rising sloping streets, street cars and trains passing back and forth and crowds of busy people walking on the sidewalks, and the vast cloud filled sky, have disappeared, upper building and all to the four winds.

No trace of them was found again. One man and a little seven year little girl miraculously escaped their sad mysterious fate though badly injured. The beautiful picture had been blotted out all except the smiling river. Even there is nothing much left of the washed or tracks and ties along the river.

Not a green thing was or is in sight. At my feet lay the dead city, silent and devastated. Not a tree is standing in streets or where there had once been parks, except those big shattered ones near the pedestal and even there are uprooted.

It is difficult to convey in words the appearance of an absolute plantless city but in the length of Charleston some 28 miles in length from southwest to northeast

and on the southwestern 3427. Beginning there was not a thing left alive and not a tree left standing after the tornado blast swept through the city. The second big thunderstorm followed the tornado, and the debris hurled so far over the country astonished everybody. Never before in the history of man has such complete destruction been wrought on an area of this size and width.

Gazing down into the silent debris strewn streets, at the great number of workers seeking so many of the dead to cremate them, from the low rise of grassy ground, I could not trace their course and could not see the irregular plain on which the long city had been built, and even no conspicuous objects were in sight except the myriads of iron beams. Even the main city's grand cathedral was undistinguishable in the universal ruin.

Farther northeast where Chester Brown extended beyond the Gold reaches on the extreme northeast corner where formerly rose the beautiful spires of the Cathedral. Impenetrable botanical gardens, the depth of the scattered wreckage was such

3428 that streets were obliterated and houses hurled out of sight. The reason for the deeper covering of the northeastern than the southwestern section of the city is that the tornado continually pulling the wreckage toward deposited most of it there.

I feel however that many of you here are already from your seeing things yourselves and from your reading almost familiar with the desolate picture which Chester Brown and its surrounding present but may wish to ask if it is true that all the destruction was done in the space of a minute and sixteen seconds and how this exceptional event in the history of tornadoes came about.

The evidence of eyewitnesses who in the thirty-one houses not on the path of the storm, but who were near the border of the devastated city or on the ships of the river facing the twister rushing past them is conclusive that the 3,000 killed and 17,000 injured more or less as the estimate is crushed or were wounded within the space of one minute and sixteen seconds.

Indeed it seems safe to say that probably the most of them met their death by being flung into

violently about by the savage force of the wind, in less than one single minute after the incredible blast from the volcano swept on through the ill-fated town. As to the precise nature of that wind blast the members of our commission I believe differ in opinion.

It has been stated in all the newspapers that the number in Chester Brown being killed were most violently flung about or torn apart by the force of the wind or killed in their houses or in flight from the storm.

My own observation and the best interpretation I can place upon the testimony of surviving witnesses favors the opinion that the general cause of death was the flinging about by the force of the blast. In order to be able to judge of the conditions where everything was destroyed it is necessary to learn what took place on the outskirts of the storm.

The people on the border of the devastated area who escaped were in some instances injured and the injuries were inflicted by debris thrown at them. Had the flying debris struck the injured people it must of been flying as the twister swept by them. The condition of the dead in

3450 and injured in Chesterbourn was actually like those in St Pierre Piere as well as the deep wreckage too and it also favors conclusion that this destruction what took place there. Chesterbourn was a literal doomed St Pierre of it but much more terribly devastated.

I don't believe there was one third the force in that cloud that swept the city of St Pierre as was in this tornado that had hauled Chesterbourn.

One had such a hot wind, even it is said the people on the borders of the long devastated tornado's path who escaped by being out of its course were also in some instances injured not only by debris being violently flung aside at them, but also the injured were inflicted by the passing of the hot air thrown aside towards them by the irresistible rush of hot winds which on touching the skin adhered and burned.

These burns resembled scorchs and sunburns, and destroyed the epidermis. In several such instances also the hair on the burned portions were strangely not destroyed, and the bodies of the injured sufferers were protected by even light clothing they were uninjured.

But the ^{heat} hot wind which struck the injured people is mysterious for had

the wind struck those injured 3451 people been somewhat hotter their clothing would have been ignited, and if they had inhaled the hot air, death would have been instantaneous.

The condition of the dead as I said before in St Pierre was the same as in Chesterbourn, but devastation more complete. While the inhalation of hot tornado storm air may seemingly be accepted as the principal cause of death of many in the stricken, two cities, it must be admitted, that many persons were no doubt killed by falling walls, flying clouds of debris, flying violently through the air by nervous shock etc.

The hard blast of wind which swept from Johnson town to beyond Terre Haute on that dreadful August 15 must have tore through with a speed of wind of two hundred hurricanes in one. This is demonstrated by the manner in which that great tree east of the Sacred Convent were uprooted and shattered, trees appearing so big, tall and strong that it was believed that even its branches could not be broken by any wind. Yet only a few branches are remaining.

3452 and all the trees are badly split, high parts of their upper sections snapped off like pine stumps and completely denuded of all their bark. We seen photographic pictures of the ruins of St Pierre after the violent cloud of death swept it with some portions of the tallest and strongest buildings still standing.

But not so in Chester Brown. There were many tall buildings in Chester Brown: a hundred per cent built stronger than those in St Pierre, and where are they to day. Take for instance that six story Dennis Mitchell building east of the convent.

What is left of it? A half story scattered sea of debris. All in that block long, half block wide building were killed except a woman employee in its deep basement. It took three days to rescue her and she was ill from shock, hunger, and suffering great thirst.

Strong masonry walls of the biggest buildings were thrown down with the rest of the buildings debris scattered in and under the highest gasometer and its ribs no more etc. If the Dennis Mitchell building the 150 workers

disappeared like those of the 3453. Sacred Heart convent. The woman rescued was a basement employee supplying the other workers from there with factory merchandise, which they worked on.

At first it was believed that the printing apparatus and the machinery that drove it was mysteriously missing too, but several days were found amidst the wreckage of Chester shore thirty miles away. This tornado was a 'poor' carrier was it not?

The direction in all this which all this was swept was a little from southwest to northeast, or directly away from Gleason City.

The evidence which was most conspicuous of all is the Incredible, or explicable strength of the wind. fury and immeasurable force, like were similar to that of the great Statue of the Mother of God referred to two or three times was the Statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus which stood in front of the convent by the same name.

That statue I believe was made of expensive marble, covered by bronze and measuring feet fifteen feet in height and nearly fourteen feet in circumference and weighing more

3454 than four thousand five hundred tons
It represented the identification of
the main entrance of the convent the
grandest entrance ever seen of any build-
ing ever known. It and the pedestal stood
in the middle of a beautiful courtyard in
front of the most beautiful trees in the
world. Rare type were from flowers and
plants there.

The pedestal was ten feet high six
feet square on top, twelve at the base
and artistically designed. This statue of the
Sacred Heart was swept from its pedestal
and carried completely out of sight. It
has not yet been found. The pedestal
was completely torn up from the ground
and almost lays sideways on the ground
badly damaged and half of its north side
section gone.

The workers made an investigation among
the big trees but the statue was not
among them. Workers were also asked at
Chester to watch for it while they
searched for the dead. But no trace of
it was found. Miles beyond Lancaster
it was not found. Where did such a
big statue go? It disappeared like the
inmates of the asylum? What statue
it is said cost \$40,000.

Who can present all the evidence
collected in this connection, or to really

indicate that the force of 3455
the wind of that confounded "Tongue"
might have had the overwhelming strength
of two hundred of the most strongest
hurricanes put together into one? Some
one could have asked Sister Clare, survivor
of the convent.

"What has happened to your beautiful
beautiful statue of the Sacred Heart?"
Sister Mary Clare"

She would have scratched her head
reflectively and then reply laconically:

"It's five days since the storm, and no
trace even now, of it has been found.
Maybe it disappeared like the convent
top and all its inmates"

Explorations of or in poor Chesterchire.

Another man said:

I was one of the relief workers searching
for the dead in Chesterchire. Time will
not permit me to detain you fellow
members longer with this preliminary
account of the travels of the commission.

I was with in the rescue of the
dead bodies of Chesterchire wiped out
in all property and goods completely.
In coming to Chesterchire the

3456 Tornado must have become doubly stronger. In Chester chire the loss of life from the tornado was far less than in Chesterbourn despite the most horrid destruction as has been reported by the Governor of Ill. The number killed was about sixteen hundred tourists and 10 among them citizens citizens of the town. Many more were injured however than at Chesterbourn.

But these too were many tourists. A great number of the actual inhabitants were away to other parts of the country vacationing or otherwise at the time that's why Chester chire at the time was much less densely populated.

There was no city comparable to Chesterbourn in proximity to the path of this wildest of tornadoes but what is significant that there were such a crowd of sight see seeing tourists like the rest in Chesterbourn did not heed the warning given by the awful noise of the storm, and many lives would have been saved if they were at the not crowded in the large public places of entertainment more shows and side shows.

That is what they got for being so pleasure mad.

The destruction was due in Chester chire

The same as Chesterbourn 3456 from the extreme force of the wind but it was struck more suddenly than Chesterbourn, and in the open more and dreadfully more exposed.

In reaching Chester chire we saw before us a scene fully as desolate if not worse as at Chesterbourn, but far less extensive.

Chester chire was only half the size of Chesterbourn.

After inspecting Richmond House a big strongly built showhouse of stone and iron framework now a shattered ruin we pressed on down what had been a street but now a wide muddy road, without its asphalt, car tracks and sidewalks to the more greater scene of horror.

Never have I gazed on a stranger or more instructive scene. We had the "tongue" at recent work at one of its most marvelous yet devastating of tasks. On what had been streets about us still stood some denuded trunks of very large trees showing that the wind did to them the same as to the big trees in Chesterbourn their sides facing the direction of the wind, stripped of all their bark all the way around, and strangely

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3452 scorched by the terrible winds
scorching heat showing that the
wind during the storm had blown
the same direction, as at Chesterbourn
but with more extreme violence so man-
ifested at Chesterbourn and more sudden and
with no apparent warning.

All territory out side of Chesterchire for
many miles looked as if it had been
covered by a severe blizzard of debris of
every kind.

Just like at Chesterbourn it was dark
and silent. Not a spray or a leaf or
trees etc. remained in all the storm oppressive
wreckstrewn Chesterchire to suggest the ex-
treme loveliness that had so suddenly
been blotted out. Fortunately here there
was no big ruined convent.

All of the wounded were or had
been suffering from burns on the hands
feet and neck from the hot tornado
wind. Of the injured in Chesterbourn
numbering about 5,000 all suffered
from burns of the nature just referred
to excepting many among them
flung about or buried in the strewn
wreckage.

At Chesterbourn the fact that terrible
disaster had recently occurred was
impressed on my mind even more
forcibly than my visit to the

stricken portions of Gleason and 345-8
So Salem. The once beautiful
city of Chesterbourn was so completely
devastated that comparatively little re-
mained to tell the tale.

Even St. Pierre on the island of Mar-
tinique could not match it. But for the
presence of the bodies still being removed,
the ruins seemingly might be a
century old. At Chesterchire however
although the town was equally as badly
devastated if not worse and its terrible
loss of life it could be no better.

There was no wreckage piled
high in the streets, because the force of
the wind scattered the buildings and
debris like chaff, the shattered big build-
ings, the blasted trees of which there are
very few left with no bark, the absolute
barren streets, city squares and avenues
all appealed most forcibly to the
imagination, and assisted in enabling
one to picture in fancy what had
occurred.

The people who had survived and
escaped the great peril still thronged
the roads, which once had been beauti-
ful great streets. In the outskirts
of Chesterchire refugees were crowded in
shelters built from the wreckage, yet really

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1464 inadequate for their shelter
the most pathetic was the sight of
the hundreds of injured persons
although their wounds had been well
cared for by the physicians
physicians early on the scene.

The magnificent but
dreadful country side
shower of debris.

Securing the devastated town with its
few remaining denuded trees I hurried
for game alle, in company with our
fellow explorers to visit its remains
and get a view of a typical region
example of the region on with the
descent of all sorts of debris had been
hardest.

Our trap tramp took us across
previously cultivated fields now covered
with debris of all description. The
view towards Chesterhire still in sight
and along the Magnolia River and
totally destroyed railroad lines where
several fine plantations or estates
were wiped out although very de-
pressing in the extreme on account of
the devastation that had been wrought
was highly instructive as an example
of the horrors of war.

One strange freak we came 3460
across was a farm barn of con-
siderable size with a hay loft and
large windows. We could not understand
that to all appearances why not being
in the path of the turbine, 42 persons
were found dead all who might have
sought its shelter.

The whole barn was intact the
wood work not ripped or split and
no other evidence remained of the
death dealing agency except the
strange layer of scattered mud and
ground gravel on the floor which was
still wet and in some parts had
a depth of four to five inches.

We wondered where did that mud
come from. The grounds of the field
or anywhere else had the dirt to
make that sort of mud, and of
such a blue color.

The windows of this big barn
which faced eastward were badly
shattered the glass being broken by
stones from between railroad ties
which strangely passed through them
from the outside, and their frames
were indented in such a strange
manner as to show that the
falling stones struck with awful

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3461 force. This interesting observation taken in connection with other facts shows that the stones were pulled high up by the vacuum of the tornado for they must have rose up to the or beyond the upper parts of the main cloud or 'head' where the layer of the terrific conflicting upper atmosphere of the cloud affected by the inconceivably strong westward blowing whirl and on reaching the higher regions of the counter whirl where the wind was being believed to blow from west to east were carried well to the eastward of this farm and on falling were swept again westward by the conflicting whirl, accented it is to be presumed by an indraft of great strength towards the onrushing tornado and given such a slant that on striking the windows reffered to they passed through and entered the rooms within hitting and killing the refugees who had taken shelter there.

In this territory the rain of debris of every description and railroad tie and other stones was similar to that which fell on So. Gale, Gleason and Gilet and all the farms.

but in general the material was very much more abundant and some debris bigger and heavier. It also rained plenty of skeletons throughout the desolated area rough singular stones of which nobody knew where they came from some five or seven inches in diameter fell in vast quantities and at a distance exceeding about 12 miles flying outward by the "head" all descending so abundantly that even at So. Gale, Gleason and even Gilet and Rock Island and elsewhere the layer was three fathoms of an inch thick.

At Ottawa Ill. north of the tornado zone and again at mounds by the Illinois river each distant about ten miles north of the tornado I found the level farm fields coated with the fallen stones nearly two inches thick.

Where all these stones came from was a profound mystery. There is a minimum measure of the depth of the disastrous shower of stones on the territory and the average thickness of the deposit is several times as great. It looked like stones from a volcanic eruption, not a tornado.

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3463 All the other debris it must be remembered came down after being flung far in all directions by the big whirling cloud high above. The greater part of the debris consisted of everything from the pulverized houses of every built.

Even fragments of all sorts of smashed household goods, merchandise from all up and down stores, trees, broken masonry windows, broken glass and debris of every description. Lots of Bakery goods, fell, merchandise from drug stores, book stores, musical instruments, clocks, talking machines, etc. Now from the next member.

Discussions of the deadly protruding tongue.

This time little Dorothy was called upon to speak her views.

"All you fellow members" said she "I am one of the lucky ones who have escaped from the storm and have come here at this meeting to ask any one of you if the head shaped cloud with the protruding tongue was caused by hot and cold conflicting air between the two thunderstorms? I had believed it was."

"Oh no. I believe you are mistaken

about that" replied the Professor. "That could not be possible between the two storms as the space was not between them. Outside the storms. That probably could happen but not between. That was caused by the influence of the two thunder storms."

"But that idea could be wrong on the opinion too" said Dorothy.

"According to the laws of tornado science the scientist cannot guess wrong" answered the Professor, "eying a ring of smoke he had just blown from his mouth." "so that in one way I believe no one can solve this strange mystery. And we do not know why that protruding tongue turned into such a long destroying funnel that carried all before it or such a long life."

"Then how could it have such a long life and travel so far and be so destructive?" asked Dorothy.

"Early enough" was the reply. "Now suppose my dear that as they, the upward current of the winter did not get much of the downward current which tornado scientist is the controller, and that as a unusual situation the tornado got so crazily wild as to smash everything in its path and destroyed it. Could you say

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1465 "Could you say that heated and cold air could do that inside of the tornado?"

"No" answered Dorothy. "And could you in fair measure believe the report that cold and hot air could rush together between two thunderstorms and form this storm?"

"Yes" said Dorothy again. "How?"

"The two thunderstorms cheated us though by being too far apart" declared Dorothy. "For if the tornado formed elsewhere it would not have had a long life. The thunderstorms were as I read were sixty-five miles apart from one another. For too the funnel jumped from the tongue almost upon Johnson town."

"That was not the fault of the space between the thunderstorms no matter how wide" said the professor crossing his legs and smiling contentedly. "That may have gave it the long life all right, and it wiped out Johnson town, but I firmly believe conflict between cold and warm air could not occur between the two thunderstorms."

For your young age Dorothy I see you have had a lot of sessions in

session about these storms. 3466
Your teacher must have been an excellent one on this. We have time. "Would you go and bring her?"

"No" said Dorothy sadly. "She was one of those who disappeared when the storm hit the Sacred Heart convent and swept all its upper floors entirely away."

"Why didn't it make the world disappear while it was at it?" thought the professor sarcastically. "Everything seems to have disappeared. The Dennis Mitchell building, the large supermarket building, the Great St. Vincent's church, the Parks, the Angel Guardian orphanage, the enormous Sacred Heart statue, and countless tourists. What could not the tornado do?"

"Did you say something out of the way?" asked Dorothy.

"Of course not" the professor returned. "Nor will I give up on the idea about the two currents between the two thunderstorms even because it formed between them and had such a long life and distance to travel on. The space is too narrow. Only sixty miles. They belong by rights outside of storms and old Mother should keep them there."

34 7467 "But this tornado treated us
cruelly" said Angelina who still
was much distressed by what
especially had happened at the convent.

"In what way?" he asked.

"By wiping out the convents and
all in it" said she.

"Cruelty" remarked the Professor
puffing out wreaths of smoke and watch-
ing them floating into the air
"is a thing that Mother Nature can't
abide or avoid. This twister was no
vengeance decreed for any short comings
of us humans. It even was super-
natural nor was it anything super-
human.

It was but a manifestation of the
unchangeable irresistible forces of old
Mother Nature and she herself is
governed by physical laws which
are inexorable. Old Mother Nature
knows nothing of revenge nor does
she know or understand pity.

She never even selects her
victims nor does she, nor can she
turn aside to save the good who
may be in her path.

Her concern is not with
individuals but with all the full
human race, so, she is moved

not by mercy but by ^{34 64} ~~6748~~
law. To the limited vision of all
of us with our brief life old Mother
Nature seems incredibly cruel and wasteful
and Wailom then teachings must be
learned at fearful costs. As men will ask
ourselves what lessons are taught by this
overwhelming sacrifice.

There is made plain little girls
first the immutability of the natural
laws and the utter powerlessness of us
humans when we put our greatest
strength against their full demonstration.

It is revealed again that there
are forces which before all the might
of all human intellect remain un-
conquerable.

Even Old Mother Nature has no
power to control even ~~on~~ herself.
A tornado can't prevent its formation,
nor can it control its devastating fury,
nor guide itself where it wants
to go. Strong as it is it can't con-
trol itself or go where it please.

It is got to go where the big parent
clouds direct it. And if the un-
fortunate Convent has to be hit
and all the children and Sisters
and employees except on him and
child has to all disappear to only
God knows where can we justify

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3467 I came from old Mother Nature when she can't even have power to control herself."

"But what a dreadful fate was theirs!" exclaimed Angelina earnestly. And the great Convent was in great need of its edy. They say it was the most magnificent and expensive building ever constructed. Even Ozma Palace of the Oz Book had never rooms like in the Convent. If you or any one here can solve this mystery, and of the head it will be wonderful."

"The Professor looked grave. "Suppose we can't?" he asked.

"Then said Dorothy firmly "We are here with all the rest for nothing. We might as well call off the rest of the meeting and go home."

"You are as brave as you are pretty my dear" he said to Dorothy. "But you have little idea of the extent of the task ^{we} ~~you~~ have undertaken, come with me for a moment."

He rose and took Dorothy's hand leading her to the side of the big room. There was a great big picture hanging on the wall where we all obtained a real wonderful view of the Sacred Heart Convent before the storm.

I had myself had been the building long before the the tragedy. It didn't shape like a convent but like almost the Buckingham Palace in London. So great were the numbers of the Convent children in the picture that they filled the space within view. A long line of Catholic Sisters stood in the rear of them and two on each line of the troop.

Although this tremendous army consisted only of young children, the eldest being ten, they were clothed in their best.

It was evident they were very well trained for they stood in straight rows rank after rank all holding large American flags making a very beautiful sight. Everyone in the meeting hall observed the picture.

"This" said the Professor with a funny catch in his voice "is but-but a small of them. The rest didn't have a chance to get their, their, picture, picture, taken."

It was said no wind storm upon upon this, this earth could ever "dash" to wreck a building like this. That no storm ever would for the "building" could oppose the strongest tornado. H.O. There were 7-7-7 believe a dozen children

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341 who were considered the best
singers ever known and had beaut-
iful singing voices. They came to
this convent to entertain the chorists
and the children in the Assembly hall.
They never had had the chance to
sing. They they - he couldn't say no
more. He sat down in the nearest
chair with a sob and tears in his eyes.
The two little girls wept bitterly.

The thought of what had happened to
the convent, the Gleason and the Angel
Guardians, Orphanage, the excitement they
had passed through, the weeping they
had been holding back so long over
the unspeakable horror these things had
got too strong for them.

The tears began to flow from her
eyes in a perfect stream, and they
broke out into loud and violent sob-
bing. They remembered everything
that had taken place, and they firmly
knew the result of the awful
overwhelming tragedy. Their cries grew
louder and louder.

"Now every one in the Asylum
are gone, all dead, and their parents
can never see them again, and the
entertainers didn't get a single chance
to sing for them but also perished
horribly."

I had a "beautiful" word for 3472.
that Donado, a "beautiful Orm"
I fell strongly like crying over the
loss of the young girl, had just
recently married two days before the
storm, yet I tried as hard as I could

to show Dorothy and Angelina, that
all those children and nuns were now
in Heaven. Heaven looking down in
gratitude gratitude for their grief over
them. But even after I had finally
succeeded in explaining to the excited
children they could not be quieted
and kept weeping harder than ever.

For the awful thought had suddenly
come to them of how lots of other
children had been so badly injured
as to look like mangled
bloody wrecks that many would
never be able to leave their beds
or walk again and some would
die too. And then for their parents
there homes would be as still
as death and they would be there
all alone, and could never again
see their dear ones.

Full of sorrow Angelina kept
sobbing aloud.

"Who can ever make things bright
for them again. Can't somebody
do it. Can't anyone. Why such a

3473 a tornado? Why couldn't it
slay away?
I tried my best to comfort the
children but that was not so easy
to do. These two little girls almost
never cried but when they once started
then it was almost impossible to make
them forget their trouble. I had soon tried
every means to of just quieting
the children because I could not
bear to hear her sob so pitifully.
I said:

"Come here little girls to me I've
got something to tell you." They're all
little angels now. Set you and the
Professor argue over the subject again.
He loves to hear you talk.
Sit down close to him and con-
tinue. You two are well learned."

That is when the new new
idea came to them. They wiped
their tears away and Angelina
started to speak when the goofy
Janitor who came in on time
to witness this scene and
scomfully:

"Crying like babies over things
of the past. How childish. How
silly."

"It's difficult for me for me to
describe the awful funny feeling

that came over me. unless 3474
I say it was like a spark to a
powder magazine. Never even as a
little boy did I ever have the
slightest prudence, and at times I had a
very ill temper and was very aggressive.

Prudence was never the virtue to
me. I turned and with one blow of
my left sent him flying head
over heel to the floor where he
lay almost in a daze.

"Get up and get the hell out
of here." I yelled at him. He
obeyed promptly. No one had yet ever
opposed me. I am a prize fighter
and well known.

Yet still sad and discouraged and
more disheartened at what the janitor
said but exultant at what I did in
return, Angelina first turned to her
friends and the robes Professor
seated himself looking admiringly
at me, who was still angry, as it
takes me a long time to get over
it.

Then sad and discouraged Dorothy
turned to her friends.

"It would seem foolish for us
to try to solve the mysteries
we came at this meeting for" the
little girl said to the Professor.

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For now one can solve it, even about the head shaped cloud. I'm sure I do not know how to act in this emergency.

I know now what sort of head cloud it was for I have consulted my main tornado Oracle some days ago which told me that one is a sort of convulsive tornado the most dangerous of all tornadoes and the other a common one of the original kind that never formed between thunder two thunder storms before. No one knows nothing of its original formation between them and no one knows nothing of the cause" said the professor quietly.

"Why it was caused by two conflicting currents of an cold and warm rushing together between the storms" cried Angelina "to a part of the cause anyhow whether any one knows it or not."

"Oh indeed" answered the Professor scornfully, but grinning. I suppose you will claim next that this tornado head, sucking into itself the moisture of the land two thunderstorms ruled out all precautions to the four winds."

"Of course" returned Dorothy. There's no doubt of it."

The professor turned to me. 3476 "Do you too dare to make such a claim?" By this time I had made up my mind as to the character of the as I might call it this haughty disdainful and dangerous death dealing tornado, which in its savage fury led it very superior to all others.

I did not come here to argue on anything at this meeting" I said quietly.

What and who I am is well established, and my authority comes from being the main head of the Relief Committee at La Salle and Chesterbourn.

To tell you the plain truth I know just as much of the mystery of the cloud head phenomenon as a hen knows the geography of the Moon. There are several parts of this country which has its separate great greatly learned Professors. I believe they are more greatly learned than you are but all these do not cause to know the mystery either, or why and what made it so strangely form between the two storms. If other Professors and all other great learned men are unable to explain this

3477 mysterious phenomena that does not interest me in the least. Among the Relief Committee I am alone am supreme. You are impudent to think I would defer to the cloud head phenomena or anything else my duty as in head Committee of Relief and nothing else.

"Let us not speak of this now please" answered the Professor. "All places were in grave danger for a most powerful tornado were preparing to destroy them when the cloud head with protruding tongue formed between the two storms. Yet the little girls say it was caused by conflicting cold and hot currents meeting between the two war of the elements."

"But what the triangling child cloud. I do not dispute them nor do I say it was or not. I know not the mystery of the Phenomena."

"You engraved it for us?"

"I know but I took the copy from the newspapers. I was not near where I could see that crazy head formation come into existence. I even knew nothing of the existence of a tornado until it came at the railroad siding north of Buffalo Rock, east of Se. Hall."

That place was also in grave danger but fortunately missed. It was near that devastated siding I got the news that some storm struck Chesterbrook. "Pah a Railroad Siding. Its nothing for a tornado."

"It did supreme dangerous destruction no matter how big and heavy the merchandise was."

"I never knew a tornado could do that I know from Chesterbrook. Set the poor people come back from their vacation tours. They will never return to their town without seeing the record breaking devastation. The tornado saw to that."

None of us liked this attitude for it meant that all the people of Chesterbrook I will soon be returning and find they will have no homes and probably lost all their belongings. We were all greatly disappointed in the progress of this great meeting for the reports of the newspapers had led us to imagine the tornado immeasurably severe enough and yet crazy with its strange phenomenal head and protruding tongue shaped like a child's tortoise by abnegation at the hands of a cruel person. Indeed I reflected that

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3479 that the twister was far worse than the papers stated, and in any event it would not be wise to antagonize the paper concerns about it, but try to win the discussions in this meeting.

"I do not like the situation about the tornado violent protruding tongue" said I. "In all the news written, where they are all over the country, and in the cities nearest the devastated territory where all the way to Terre Haute on further thousands lost their lives and were injured, thousands frightfully where the news did not fully acknowledge the full thing, where there was little statement at all, I firmly believe the tornado was as hundred percent worse than they write especially from what I have seen."

And besides there was something very strange about that "strangling child" cloud. Why did the tongue change into the funnel, when as we know the twisters usually come from the main big cloud, usually from its rear, seldom from the center. Besides it was eerie and very queer how the body connecting with the neck was in such constriction and how the upper part of the

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head acted so crazily and then the bosom of the main cloud seemed to burst like a person's belly. The whole of a hood-mass to become such a fatal whole killer. If differences is to arise between us fellow members then they should now come to me as I'm the head one here and I'll judge the cases and find means to solve this tremendous mystery. So when I learned there might be an important meeting on this phenomenon I came here to settle the dispute about it and adjust the mystery for the good of us all."

"No one asked the twister to take such an extraordinary shape, neither had it any business to take form between the two thunderstorms" declared the Chairman of the meeting. "It is not possible for any one of us to settle this dispute not even I or you. You say I will judge the case and find means to solve this mystery which no one yet has solved, but that is all nonsense for I've never heard of such a thing as that 'strangled child' head be fore between two storms, no of such irresistible force and fury before."

3 3480 You say you are sure the little girls are fifty fifty in their idea about the cause of the tornado. and maybe after all that cold and hot air got into a squabble between each other in meeting to gether there.

I like Professor Millno don't believe it.

What I do believe is that each storm was too close together to permit such a thing as that requires a wide open atmosphere to do it.

Of course something did happen to stir up terrible trouble between the two storms which were already too difficult for old Mother Nature to manage. The two storms may even be the cause of the vile tornado forming between them. And understand this the chairman added proudly rising from his chair to confront us. You say there was something extremely strange about that strangling child phenomena. There was I believe something more extremely extraordinary about those two crazy thunderstorms.

Never in any part of this country or the Tropics were any thunderstorms so loud, wild or had such cloud bursts of rain. I've seen that awful

lightning come from that 3481 tongue and stretch across the dark sky in record breaking brilliancy three times, each flash was and brighter than the other. I'm still going to the doctor for what the loudness of the thunder did to my ears. Why lightning like that from the mere tongue, instead of the main clouds.

That protruding tongue had powers more than a dozen severe tornados put together into one than even a thousand hurricanes put together and made a greater horror than the worse "lith" wave processes.

It was a "Krumble" tornado the only Krumble tornado in the world, and had the greatest sangery that ever existed. They say Mt Pelee killed thousands upon thousands and blotted out the city of St Pierre.

I believe this Krumble killed many more. May it was a big wholesale killer of unknown number of little children. Remember the Gleason asylums the Angel Guardian Orphanage and the convent. How many children did it kill when it wiped out Johnstown and

3 348.2 Janeville. Like the convent,
horrible tragedy none of any-
grown ups were ever seen again-
since then even now every one trembles
at the very word of this tornado now
that you and the little girls are here
you ought to be able to solve this
mystery more than any of us can.
More than that, in trying to solve
this I also ask to solve the mystery
how it caught itself between such awful
thunder storms"

and I was very surprised at this
relation.

"We got an idea" I said "the cause
was the same as what made it
from into that extraordinary head."

If you only listened attentively
and knew what I said, I didn't
at all say the cause was fifty
fifty. I said I will repeat that I
know as much about this mystery
as a hen knows the Geography
of the Moon. If you only knew
what a Krumbi that tornado really
was you'd be scared to death
to talk about it like that. And I
am surprised that you suggest
these reforms while none of us
yet can see how to accomplish
it. That these things should be

done there is no doubt 3483
but the storm was a dreadful war
of the insane condition of the ele-
ments and as we all know the
most frightful things has even happened
to us all. Our tornado overcame and
almost swept away everything in its
broom does the dust in a room but it
is truly said the tornado was more
powerful than the newspapers stated
although even greater than a thousand
hurricanes as you say"

In all this heated debate I believe
all of us found ourselves confronted with
a most serious problem and although
we had no thought of despairing we must
have realized that unless we could
solve something or find means to
discover the means or find a means
to discover the cause of the strange
cloud phenomena there would be no
success of the meeting.

"In such a dilemma as this" said
the professor musingly "nothing is
gained by haste. Careful thought may
aid us and so may the course
of events. The unexpected is
likely to happen and then full
patience is better than reckless
action. I had far into the night
three nights ago sat in my library

3 3484. studying books on tornadoes what they do and formations of the clouds. yet the morning found me still unsuccessful. for none of them were like this one.

All curious thing about this tornado was that no one would or could suspect in the least that it could form so unusually strong. said another member of the meeting. It was yet to be become most powerful and great and to make it self master tornado of time all tornadoes of all time.

From the statements of all the various papers and magazines we have learned the following facts:-

1. For all it did in its entire lengthy path the tornado was the most astonishing of its kind, and that it could not be slowed down or halted or forced to turn off its course by any tornado obstruction ever devised. Also by means of the awful disappearance of the inmates of the convent and the workers of the Dennis Mitchell building it had the most powerful and blowing and also rapid flinging force on all record.
2. That this tornado was the most powerful even the world have ever seen among all the destruction she committed the most, being all the

biggest and strongest build - 3485
ings in all the places 3875
she ravaged, and nothing like that had ever before happened anywhere in the world. That the "longue" was very dangerous to the Dennis building Convent, Super market, and the largest Orphanage in the world in Chesterbourn called the Angel Guardian Orphanage, and no wind device had ever been constructed that might protect these places.

3. That the tornado was a sort of hurricane kind that moved even against the east wind which tornadoes usually don't do, or as is said can't do. Some say it was much more powerful than a tidal wave and resembled the monster storm off the coast of Norway.

4. That there never existed a tornado like this one in the world before, that its lower extremity grew large enough to cover a path of destruction a mile and a quarter wide, and that it lasted in hitting and passing, a minute and six tenths seconds, but did all the work destruction destruction in far less time. And what it did to the Convent, Dennis building, and the Angel Guardian orphanage in an instant time.

3486 "Well well" said the Professor sadly. "This meeting is an expected pleasure. I assure you but we're so far getting no where. But I can say it won't take long to smash the business of the disappearance of the Convent children. Many people are still staying outside of Chester hoping for news of the disappeared children. They have even asked me for news of them and my reply was 'Let Heaven find them if it can'."

"Professor" I answered on an emotional tone. "The tornado did what no tornado could do before. I suppose you had imagined that the Convent had been so strongly constructed that it could withstand all tornados. I know though it was very powerfully built."

"Yes" said the Professor slowly filling his pipe with fresh tobacco from a silver bowl that stood beside him. "That is what I did imagine. I'm sorry to say I was greatly wrong to have imagined it. Who would think of a twister so fierce and strong. It was like hell let loose on earth. It will do none of them any good to stay out there because no one can tell what the twister did to them and no one can guess in a thousand years. Even those poor children who were such singers

and had good singing voices 3487
and I have seen the mother of two of those famous child singers."

"I had known them and their mother for quite a while and her mother waiting long for her two lost children she had become frustrated and was and still is in that University turned Hospital."

Just yesterday I went to see her. Outside of Chester I know I saw many people still waiting for news good or bad.

At ten A.M. I arrived at the high gate of the University hospital thinking as I came of what I had to do and left the Tax that brought me awaiting orders to advance.

The great University now a hospital when I came up to the gate looked just the same and sounded the same from the cries, moans, groans, and even the cuning of the injured. Of all the windows of the hospital not a blind was raised, no sign of life was seen the magnificently paved Courts except parked Autos with its covered way leading up to the main entrance.

The wind and rain had quite gone down, nothing moved and it was very hot and humid.

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3488 I did not have the slightest courage to ring at the reception room at first and when I finally did ring my errand seemed to me to be expressed in the very sound of the bell. A nurse in her best uniform appeared and looking earnestly at me said:

"I beg your pardon. In Danger are you? Ill too. Are you overcome by all this honor too?"

"I have been much very much agitated and am fatigued" I had answered.

"Is there something the matter. In Danger - the two lost children -"

"Hush Mrs. Steenfaith" said I. "Yes something has happened that I have to break to Mrs. Marjorie Flannigan. She is still in her sick room fainting away?"

The nurse anxiously replied that Mrs. Flannigan was never out of her room that she also always kept her room that she would see no company, but she would allow me to come to see her. What message should she take to her?

"I gave her a strict charge to be careful of her manner and only to carry in my card and say I waited. I sat down in the hospital waiting room which we now reached until

she could come back 3489
to former pleasant air of
occupation was gone and even here
the shutters were half closed
it was so still down there that I heard
the nurses lightest footsteps upstairs

In her return she brought a message to the effect, knowing who I was, and my occupation that the doctor would allow me to see her that because of the shock of no news she was an invalid and could not leave her room, or bed, but that if I excuse her being in her room she would be glad to see me in a few minutes I stood beside her in her bed.

Even in this room the shutters were half closed. Her childrens pictures were there a boy and a girl.

She was in her bed. She murmured however that she was in bed at her doctors orders, and with her stately look repelled the least suspicion of the truth. This really a sad sight fellow members, at her bed as usual was her mother. From the first moment of her dark blue eyes resting on me, I saw she knew I was the bearer of evil tidings. She withdrew herself a step behind the bed to keep her own eyes

34 3490 out of Mrs Flannagan's observation, and looked at me with a piercing gaze that never faltered. ^{shrunk} never, am very sorry to observe you are in mourning now" said Mrs Flannagan to me.

"I am very unhappily a widow" said I. "To know so severe and great a loss you are very young" she returned. "I am grieved to hear it, I am grieved to hear it. I hope time will be good to you. Where did you lose her?"

"Here in Chesterbourn. She died of fractured skull and ribs, in fact she was torn and badly mangled. The worst murderers could not do a better job. She didn't die in the wreckage. She was violently flung about to her fatal injury. She lived only three hours and I hope time will be good to all of us. Dear Mrs Flannagan we must all trust to that in our most heartiest misfortunes."

"The earnestness of my manners and the tears in my eyes alarmed her. I could see I know the whole course of her thoughts appeared to stop and change. I tried very much to command my voice in gently saying about the Cornish tragedy but it trembled. She repeated it to herself two or three

times in a low tone when addressing me she said in an-
forced calmness. "The relief crews are still searching?"
very ^{diligently} of some ^{boats} from here to way east
"You have seen the searchers?"
I have"

"Are you reconciled with God?"
"After the loss of my wife, and all the indescribable scenes, and bloody injured I've observed, and all the horrors of this Tornado, I could not say yes, I could not say no. A surge of bitter anger came into me instead. She did slightly turn her head towards the spot where her mother had been standing at her elbow and in that sad moment I said by the motion of my lips to her mother.

"They'll never be found."
That Mrs Flannagan might not be induced to look behind her, and read plainly written what she was not yet prepared to know, I met her look very quickly, but I had seen her mother throw her hands up in the air with a vehemence of despair and horror, and then clasp them on her face. The handsome lady - oh like - oh so like - regarded me with a fixed look and put her hand to her

34 3492. forehead, I besought her to be calm, and prepare herself to bear what I had to tell, but I should rather have entreated her to weep for she sat - lay like a stone figure.

"When I was last here" I faltered I learned unknown numbers were desperately searching every where as far as the tornado traveled.

The afternoon the storm struck here was a dreadful one. The rest of the convent looks like a shipwreck which it is to be -"

"Mother" said Mrs Flanagan "Please come to me"

She came with great sympathy and gentleness. Her eyes like fire as she confronted her mother.

"Now" she said "is the elements appeared, you mad heartless tornado?"

Now have we all made atonement to you with the loss of my daughters dear ones, and her husband - with his life. Do you hear - His life you damn tornado!"

Mrs Flanagan lying stiffly in her bed, and making no sound but a moan, cast her eyes upon her with a vacant wide stare.

"Aye" cried her mother smiting herself passionately on the breast

"Look at me Moan and groan 3493, and look at me. Look here striking the bandaged wound on her face. Look at the tornados handiwork. Look at what I did to your children my grand-children. Oh the damnation of it. Why were we so crazy to come here with them. That damn tornado!"

The moan the poor young mother uttered from time to time went to my heart. Always the same. Always inarticulate and stifled. Always accompanied with an incapable motion of the head, but with no change of face. Always proceeding from a rigid mouth and closed teeth as if the jaw were locked as from lock jaw and the face frozen up in pain.

"Do you remember when the (censored) tornado did this?" she proceeded. Do you remember your loss and crime when in its "blanky blank" unhesitant of hell's wild nature and fury and of the clouds pampering of its pride and (censored again) passion it did this to us and that this wound of my face will disfigure me for life? Look at our crushing loss, look at my face which will be terribly marked for life untill I die with the tornado damn "blanky blank" pleasure, and

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3495 and we will moan and groan for what "a blanky blank fools the tornado made of us." Mrs Sullivan? entreated her excited mother. For Heavens sake such language for an elderly women of your kind. Please—

"I will curse and swear, all I like" she said turning on me with her lightning eyes. "Be silent Mr. Danger. Didn't you suffer a crushing loss because of this storm too? Then why rebuke me for swearing at it? I bet you did a lot too and wont admit it. Look at me & once to be Grand mother a proud grand mother" she added now sobbing violently. "A grand mother of two good grand children who had such good ringing voices. We moan for our ~~lost~~ nurture of them, moan for our loss of them, moan for mine and you scold me for my cursing and blaspheming the storm. I'll do it all I like and nobody is going to stop me."

She still sobbing clenched her hand and trembled through her spasms illness made worse figure as if her passion were killing her by inches.

"You Mr. Danger resent my

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self will. Can you truthfully 3496 tell me that this (censored) loss of your ~~own~~ wife didn't make you say a lot of bad words? If you say no I don't believe you. She exclaimed "All Chester Brown I did want by the tornadoes 'blanky blanks'. Temper— It from that (censored) 'tongue' reared and formed itself to be what it was, and was what no other tornado ever was or ~~was~~ could be or could have been. You who opposes my language should be opposed to both for what no other storm could ever have been. Are we rewarded now for our years of troubled miserable lives. Is this our reward? "Blanky blank. Censored?" "Oh Mrs Sullivan. Shame for such language. Oh cruel. It wont bring them back"

"I tell you" she returned almost savagely "I will continue to say those words. No power on earth could stop me while I am standing here by my poor mother. Have I been silent all these years, and shall I not speak my feelings now?"

"I loved her two children as much as my grand mother does maybe better than she loved them" turning on me fiercely. "I could have

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3497 and did love them more than my own experience home in New York and ask no return if I had been their mother I could have been the slave of their caprices for a word of love forever. I really had been. Who knows it better than I. This tornado was

exacting punctiliously dangerous, a murderous whole sale killer of children

My love for the children was more than devoted, more than selfish love, yet this winter swept them away to nowhere and trampled on whimpering sobbing grief under foot

"With flashing eyes she stamped upon the floor as if she actually did it. I was afraid she was half deranged from her sorrow of her mother's sorrow more than her own."

"Look here" she said pointing to her bandaged face again with a relentless hand "What the tornado did to me. When the children grew into a better understanding of affection of me they saw to my every need, when they came to visit me, I could sing to them beautiful Catholic Hymns they would sing to me, and one hymn they loved to sing was St. Vincent's Maytrach Children. And with their excellent voices

How beautifully they would sing it - I could show all the undown that I felt in all they did and attain with labour to such knowledge as most interested them and I attracted them. When they were frohest and truest they loved me as much as they loved their own mother. Yes they did. At Christmas and their birthdays I gave them beautiful useful presents and you ought to have seen the lovely presents they gave me. Many a time when my daughter was put off with a slight word they have taken me to heart."

She said it with a taunting pride in the midst of her ~~parade~~ frenzy - for it was little less - yet with an eager remembrance of it in which the smouldering embers of a gentler kindled for the moment

"I descended as I might have known I should, but that her dear little children fascinated me with their own childish love and devotion into a sort of doll a trifle for the occupation of idle hours. Perhaps her daughter saw it too when she took them to visit me on my farm and was not jealous or sorry how they shrouded away to nowhere since then

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3499 I'm going to be a mere
 disfigured faced person between
 me and my mother having no
 eyes no ears no feelings no
 remembrances like if I'm a piece of
 broken up furniture sister to my poor
 mother moan moan, for what the
 "blanhy blank" tornado made of us. I
 tell you I believe I loved her children
 better than she did. They were like little
 saints and beloved by all that knew
 them where ever they went.

They never did anything to be
 scolded about by me or my daughter
 or any one else. They had an undant
 love for Christ and the mother of
 God. The boy was going to be a priest,
 and his sister a nun when they grew
 up. Pah where are they now?

She stood with her bright angry
 eyes confronting the wide stare and set
 face, and softened more when the moaning
 was repeated and the face looked
 to me as the saddest picture I've
 ever seen.

"Mrs Sullivan" said "if you can
 be so obdurate as you feel toward that
 tornado, then as too to your afflicted
 daughter."

"Damn the tornado and what made
 it. I of all the devils in hell formed

it I'd like to kill them 2500.
 all by their own device" she
 retorted sharply. My daughter not only
 lost her little boy and girl, but
 is an invalid because of the storm. The
 storm has sown this. She is moaning
 because of the awful harvest it reaped
 that 15th of August. It reaped
 my mother into bed for life. I
 fear every injured one is moaning
 and groaning in this building for the
 harvest it reaped that day.

"Yes it is the fault of this dreadful
 tornado and the poor children." I
 began—

"Poor children" she cried bursting
 into passionate tears again. The two of
 them had souls and loveless men
 with millions of the friends to whom
 they won. Every body in the country
 sent them Christmas and birthday
 presents many of which they afterward
 gave to children poorer than them-
 selves. They held birthday and
 Christmas parties to whom only
 poorer children were invited. as far
 as it was possible they helped the
 sick. Young as they were that way
 they had been carrying on work
 among their poor neigh bors, sitting up
 at night with sick children and supplying

34 3501 food to hungry little ones
saying quietly in reply to the words
of gratitude of those they helped to
"We are glad to be able to help those
who need it" there was one person working
niam who was wild with delight when
he saw his little one on its feet again.
When she was all he did not expect
she would live, and it almost broke his
heart. He and his wife could not afford
a doctor. Through the children the parents
had the child sent to the hospital
at their own expense.

And all the fault of the tornado "
she continued still in passionate tears "the
twister dared malign the convent they re-
lost to us forever" she again cried tear-
ing her white hair. "And I loved them
so much I'm afraid the Good Almighty
death with me very bitterly. Oh how
could He?"

"If all the execrable, explicable
faults of the tornado" I went on, "be
banished from your memory Mrs
Jane Sullivan in such an hour as
this; look at your poor daughter, even
as one as you've never seen before
and render her some immediate
help. Remember the loss to her is
much worse than to you as they
were her own children"

all this time her daughter 3502
was unchanged, and looked unchangeable.
motionless rigid staring meaning in
the same dumb way from time to time
with the same helpless motion of the
head, but giving no other sign of life.
Her mother suddenly knelt down
before her and began to loosen the
dress.

"A curse a wholesale book upon of curses
upon the tornado" she said looking at
me with a mingled expression of rage
and grief. "It is an evil hour that it
ever came here. A million curses upon
the tornado. Henry go quickly and
have the nurse come"

After passing out of the room
I hurried back to ring the bell
to summon the nurse, I thought to
myself, sin or not it wouldn't
do, an earthly lot of good to curse
the twister or its deplorable havoc.

Her mother had taken her impassive
daughter into her arms, and still upon
her knees was weeping over her,
kissing her, calling to her, rocking
her to and fro upon her bosom
like a child and trying every tender
means to rouse the dormant senses.

I noisily turned back again and

3503 somehow alarmed the whole hospital as I went out. I was myself in such a rage about the tornado and what caused it.

"How long ago since you last seen their poor mother?" I asked the Professor.

"Two days later I returned" I answered soberly. She was the same, just the same they told me, her mother never left her, doctors were in attendance.

Many things have been tried but she lay like a statue except for the low sound now and then. I went into the dreary room and darkened the windows of the room where she lay.

I lifted up the cold hand and held it to my heart and all the world seemed death and silence broken only by her moaning. When I went out I went some where and wept bitterly.

Mrs. Sullivan is here at the meeting at the doctors orders. I brought her here."

When asked by me the main head of the meeting how she comes to be in Chestertown at the time of the storm with her daughter and her children she answered in an agonizing voice.

"We were not in the city at the storm but on the train. Two days before

the storm my husband "3504
husband who now is in an insane asylum, demented because of our loss sent them on the Lebanon Central to Chester Brown Convent. Oh if he had kept them at home my husband

is prostrated and soul only. I'll over all this. They did not come with us on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Without then knowing what it was at first the engineer braced our train into the path of the storm."

"Where?" I asked.

"Didn't you ever see that long line of coaches pushed tracks, ties and all down that wide steep embankment into the edge of the Magnolia River?" she demanded.

"I felt like disappearing through the floor at her question. In a few moments I stood as if in a daze, that was a sight I'll never forget all my life. I remember what the engineer who survived told me.

Really right now I felt sick, also like

my pocket caught in the act.

I finally answered her by asking

"Were you on that train?"

"Yes" with tears in her eye.

"Ha" I exclaimed. It looked like the worst train wreck ever seen.

3 3505 I will, cannot forget that right all my life such long strong steel coaches. Three quarters of the steel passengers killed or injured even the Porters and conductors didn't escape. Debris of all kind hurled through the windows into the coaches. Roofs torn open. It seems impossible for such a strong train. Even the rail bed ripped up. The train is still in that position. It'll take months to restore all that."

"How did you escape without being killed, asked the professor.

"I believe by a miracle" she answered. As the train was running along towards Chester Brown, I saw what looked like a tremendous shroud of a peculiar form, and something unseen in the center of it throwing all kinds of stuff in every direction and way high upwards.

Above the nose of the swiftly moving train there was a multitude of noses and it was rushing with terrific rapidity over the farm and fields completely in an instant enveloping the farmer in a sheet of spraying field debris and raining a cloudburst of dirt

mud and stones on the train - 35'06 I was told that lay super human efforts, having steam up the engineers laid to back away from the coming shroud from not the center of which to me came a sound as if from lost souls in dreadful hellish agony. Even before it struck us flying fragments hit and broke the windows.

This was about a little before 4:30 in the afternoon. The shroud was like a awfully large whirlwind of steam flying over mud, stones and debris.

The center of it was in the midst of frightful convulsions.

Then something frightful happened. There was a violent shaking in the air of the coach that tumbled our baggage down upon us, and jostled me and my daughter very roughly. I was looking at the shroud which to me was in the wildest fury on its center I ever saw. My daughter screamed "Oh my God mother, its a tornado and the engineer is pulling us into its path. Of course I could not describe what I was seeing but I don't believe even the words and would look like that.

It was just as though all the

7507 fields on our side was being
blown up by tons of gun cotton.
I heard the engineer shouting orders
to his fireman to back up with
all his speed. I saw the pistons rush
back and forth. The conductors were
a panic. Then the cloud shroud en-
veloped us, with an awful howling
roar that was deafening.

Our coach was violently torn from
the road bed tracks ties, gravel and
all, it heeled over to the great wind,
seemed to career, and then violently
slide down the embankment side-
way then turn upside down in
the water below. I could know
by the awful banging crushing noise
that other coaches were quickly
following.

And in the interval between these
awful rouch I could hear the
cries and tearing shrieks and
cries of the passengers, and the
cries of despair and agony from
those who were perishing.

These cries added to the terror
of the scene which happened
but it is impossible to describe
its horror to me or the
dreadful sensations it produced

in me. I hate to say so. 3508
but I cursed at God when that
piece of window glass cut my face
like this. My daughter was seriously
injured. I am telling the truth. We
two miraculously were the only survivors
in that coach. I have never yet un-
raveled the end of the world and
wandered if it could be really worse
than this.

I don't know how long it took
all this to happen but all the wind
in all the world had seemed to
gather up about us and hurl all
the coaches down the embankment
every which way. When the wave of
wind struck our coach it swept it
down the embankment like a child
hurl a toy, and all the rest of
the eleven coaches save the baggage
were swept violently down. Good
portions of rail tracks ties, and
rail bed followed us.

By the violent downward slide
of the coach I was nearly killed
by being violently wedged between
the seats by the force of the
tor. It was four hours before
the injured survivors of the train
wreck got to us and killed me.

3509 loose from between the
seats and helped me to my
feet and sat me in a half broken
seat. I here remained while some
treated and bandaged my still
bleeding face. Others tended to my
mother. I was half dead for a time
during which I could hear shouts of
men outside. Some hours later I
didn't know long it was then, but
I've since been told it was at eight
o'clock in the night when a wagon
came drawn by mules and we were
put on more dead than alive. We
were taken to the hospital. My daughter is
still the same."

Another man said,

I am one of the survivors of the
awful Angel Guardian Orphanage tragedy.
I was no occupant. I was sent
to the orphanage with the purpose
to find the ^{Asylum} ^{Asylum} officer for
the head sister of the place. Before
the twister came here the news that
reached us here told of the horrors
of the scene there and the Gleason
Orphanage tragedy. Never since the
world began it was stated have
human eyes witnessed such a
grievous scene. The city itself
was strewn with corpses. But

Gleason city on the asylum 3510
is far from here. Who would
have thought it was rushing
hell bent for Chester Brown. This is
my thrilling story which should be
listened to with painful interest.

I on the errand that I was sent
reached the great orphanage on the
early afternoon of the 15th.

I noticed the unusual darkness
coming on, and crept slowly up the
entrance steps to the hall above.
Finding there among the black clothed
nuns the some of the children
grouped about and four women in
^{Asylum} ^{Asylum} uniform.

I went with the head sister to the
office between three thirty and four
o'clock to bring what I was sent
with at that moment. I heard an
awful noise in the upper sky like
dreadfully loud humming sound,
not tuneful but harsh and
rough. But coming through the
streets was a commotion of sound
like crowds of dogs howling at their
utmost, mingled loudly at the
same or more very loudly like
a score of lugsaws at one
time. I went to the window to

3511 see what was making all that discord. For a with of more than a mile all the buildings on the streets seemed to be opening out with a terrible explosion and the explosive conditions were coming toward the asylum.

"Oh my God" I yelled to those in the hall. "we're in the path of a tornado"

A wall of flying debris swept over and through the streets. Those in the hall got to the basement just as the Orphanage was struck broadside by the horrible inconceivable tempest. The shock to the building was most terrible ripping it apart like card board.

Hearing the awful report of the explosive force of the tornado (no explosion of the worst kind has the force of the tornado) and seeing the great swirling wall of the wreckage approaching the orphanage like a million battering rams of all sizes, there ran down for the basement, or tried to seek shelter, wherever it was possible jumping into the large main coal shed the bathrooms and even into the cellar.

I was in the office at that moment

not having yet the chance 3512 to get out. But all types of smaller debris were borne by so swift a movement of the air that they were swept in through the broken windows beating me all over. The wind was hot I was terribly whipped up by the wreckage coming through the window about the face and shoulders and cut by flying glass but managed to escape the office just as that part of the building went to pieces like from a scattering explosion.

As I got into the hall an unconceivable gust of wind came through a large glassless window on the south front of the hall and rolled up a portion of a hall rug nearly tripping me.

As soon as it was possible when in the hall I tried to restrain the terrified children who seemed unable to move from terror and panic. I ordered them to flee down to the basement, slipped for the next room and rang for the head porter.

The second and third engineers and a fireman were working in the basement below.

One of the most terrifying conditions was that the atmosphere was charged with flying debris

3514 and it was totally dark. It seems small to say that the scene was terrifying in the extreme even though the full force of the storm had not struck yet and the building was resisting it manfully.

As I backed out of the other room that shook as if there was a most severe earthquake, I passed close to some group of children still standing in the hall too frightened to move yet their screams were terrible to hear.

Their cries were not in vain for I could not let them face a horrible death.

When these children were swiftly down in the basement

It was now four thirty then something happened. Thirty seconds had already passed, there was an awful shaking in the air. I was looking out a broken window and every soul not yet gone down to the basement looked too. What of course I saw

I cannot or no one can describe but I thought for certain can the end of the world look really like that? It was just as though the whole of Chestertown was being blown up by an enormous volcanic eruption. I don't believe all the biggest

sticks of dynamite that every 3516 body in the world possesses could at one explosion could do all this. It looked like a giant pillar of flame rushing headlong for us then it opened out wider than the city itself and came roaring on at us.

Some of us with Father Morley the main superintendent rushed to the Chapel in the building to warn those praying in there I saw the priest shouting orders and I saw assistant President Father Manley McLean, start for the basement below.

As we reached the Chapel the main part of the tornado was upon us nothing only as debris as battering ram, but wind which I never believed could blow so strong was tearing the building apart like weak card board paper. Great big sides of wooden houses, terrific showers of bricks and mortar, and real torrents of timber of all sizes flew here and there like feathers from a pillow slip and clattered all over the asylum.

There was another extra loud roar and with it all the storm of wreckage around and above us seemed to gather up and rush around the asylum. Every part of the

25-17 building keeled over like a wave tossed ship in a sea storm. When the wild wind struck us it tore the building apart in every direction sweeping away all of the roof like tissue paper smothering down the big Chapel and all the raffle of the Orphanage.

There was an asylum ventilator at hand and to save myself I seized it just at the moment of an increase of the wind of the most unexpected force and I was nearly killed thereby being driven into it by the rabid force of the wind which became ten times worse. Yet a couple of employees pulled me out of the ventilator and dragged me into a still standing large domed room.

There I remained half dead for a time during which the rest of the orphanage was being shattered into horrid roof ruins, and the flying wreckage battered everything to nothing. Now and then for every second a shrieking child rolled into the dome room and died as it came so that quite a pile of corpses lay over me. Some one pulled me from under these and I rose to stand on my feet

and despite the fury of 3578 wind fury of the storm growing worse than even started warning in a hand and warning the wind who were lying all about the floor though even then the wreckage outside was a thicker flying blizzard than even before.

At this moment a very queer thing happened. The floor of the great circular room or hall on which I was standing was roughened by a suddenly more inconceivably strength of wind and suddenly became an abrupt slant and the slant quickly became steeper and steeper until before we knew what happened we suddenly slid down the wall which was now under us.

It was evident that awful force of wind had turned or was swiftly turning the whole vast room upside down ripping up the whole round floor in doing so. We found ourselves almost suddenly at the bottom of the great dome lurching against the two big chandeliers which like everything else was upside down. But because of the wind still increasing the room revolved again faster than before

35:19 hurling us to the side of the wall where it then fell to the ground violently and broke into two halves. A few were killed by this crazy incident.

As this occurred ^{superior} Muggah rose to his feet. I knew him by his clothes, though these were torn to shreds and his face was torn and ripped beyond recognition.

"Get to the basement from down here," he ordered.

We could not obey his orders, however for the wreckage of the big dome barred our way to a basement window.

I saw no more of the superior after that, but I was told by a wounded employee that he jumped free of the dome, got caught by a terrific gust of wind and was carried out of sight. All this time seas of wreckage were flying like the heaviest kind of a snowstorm, the wind was roaring crazier than ever and the air was full of strange shocks. When I looked at the city streets within my sight the scene was terrifying. ~~A~~ ^{Within} three quarters of a minute had now passed. Nearly all the houses were gone and in their places

were swirling great clouds of 35:20 debris as wind blew the snow around snow drifts - all about us the largest brick houses were gone, the orphanage building was three quarters swept away and in its place was a long stretch of gray swirling clouds of dust. Then the hoard wind stopped more suddenly than it commenced. A wave of debris followed after the crazy twister. A dead calm came but yet the sky would not lighten up.

The twister was going off with the same sounds as it came. A great dread came over me. I knew Chestershire would be next.

While the storm was still roaring away into the distance leaving behind it its desolation and unspeakable horror I made for what had been the playground. Arriving there where everything was wiped out, I mustered the survivors of Chester Brown nearby, as well as I could or able and searched the grounds for the dead and injured children. Some I found in an abandoned cistern in the ground where the wind flung them. We found others in the same shackles of a play house where they had vainly sought for safety, but

3521 still remaining wreckage were full of dead bodies of children I brought ten picked up from the ground towards the basement of what was left of the two block long building who were severely injured two of them died on the way the others survived after all although in a dreadful state of torture from their injuries their screams of agony were heartrending.

Poor children, poor tornado

Out of a total of twenty hundred caught out in the playground, which includes or adds an assistant Head Master, and five employees three hundred and fifty five are dead and the rest are in the hospitals the one that was the University and several in St. Salls. The first rank supervisor attendant, the Chief engineer and the Asylum supercargo Clerk were killed out in the playground.

The playground was covered everywhere here and there with wreckage from all other property and to move about the grounds during rescue work was not immensely difficult but absolutely extremely perilous.

Even immediately after the storm I was only then able to begin thoroughly to clean and search the grounds to see if there were any corpses

in in and out of the way 3522 places of the playground. In instances at five P.M. I found one body of a horribly wrecked boy tree. The body was horribly mangled and the child had evidently been blown into the tree and died in awful agony. The grounds presented an appalling appearance.

Dead and calverned bodies of children lay about the scattered debris by many scores, which was also crowded with the injured, suffering and helpless children.

Prompt assistance was rendered to the injured by the rescuers, and the poor tortured children were taken to the hospitals.

The dead were buried by the next morning and I had to admit omitted to mention that out of six hundred of the visitors or relations who came to visit the children six only survived and they too are in the "University" hospital.

Many of the others threw themselves out of the windows to escape a dreadful fate, but they met with one for it is the actual fact that the winds caught them and flung or carried them to only God knows where, my escape was mesmeric muscular, yet being in that confounded

3523 rounded dome room. It really was with the greatest difficulty that we working all night rescued the injured. I witnessed the entire destruction of the playground. The storm enveloped the grounds in every quarter with such rapidity that it was impossible that any body could escape. As I ought to have said the day was suddenly turned into night but I could distinguish by the frequent flashes of lightning children distractedly running running towards the basement entrance. All this time the tornado was roaring and raging wildly and in the intervals between these terrifying sounds and fury of the storm I could hear the cries of despair and agony from the hundreds who were being killed and injured.

These screams, cries and shrieks added to the terror of the scene and tumult of the storm but it is utterly impossible to describe the horror or the dreadful sensations it produced. It was like I was there witnessing the ending of the world.

Not one of them in the grounds had the slightest chance to escape. The sewing ropes, swings all play

apparatus is all gone also 3524
play ground awnings. I have lots yet to tell you members of this meeting. The head Matron of the Angel Guardian Orphanage was among those taken to the "University" hospital. He could not very much describe her experience, but she said that on the afternoon of the terrible disaster, she heard a loud noise which she could not describe and thereupon fainted.

When she regained her senses a few hours after she was lying among scattered debris horribly mangled and glancing around she saw two nuns strapped almost nude by the twisted wedged between branches of a broken tree still alive but they died before assistance could reach them.

Mrs Lawrence although she lived for some time after being taken to the hospital, and was conscious while under the care of the doctors, died without being able to impart any additional information concerning the catastrophe.

Memorie Mary Jane was the eight and half year old daughter of her father and mother who were high rank employees in the Angel Guardian

7525 orphanage, who formerly
family lived in Bloomington
Ill. She with her mother
a brother aged six and a sister
aged seven were in the ill fated
asylum and you know fellow members
she is in the hospital here.

She has a nurse Clara Beremman
Johnson who is here to tell us the
following story of her experience.

She says she was a dining room
superior seeing to the setting of the
long tables when the asylum sto-
ward called to her. "Look at that
awful tornado heading right for
us."

She went to the window and saw
a vast cloud like a shroud and
very long columns coming swiftly toward
the asylum from the window. The
steward ordered her to get out of the
dining room saying it's coming. Mrs.

Beremman then rushed to the open
hall. She says she experienced a
sensation of suffocation which was followed
by an awful irresistible draft through
the hall. She saw the dining room
ceiling fall upon the tables and
the after part of the wall was torn
outward.

Henry Benson a carpenter of

the asylum who is in 2526
the hospital severely injured as-
sisted Miss Beremman and the child-
ren to escape with the help of

a Mr. Scott a farm laundry man
of the asylum they got to the basement
on time from the inside including
Mrs. Jarne and her husband, none
of them did not sustain serious injuries.

Mary Jarne was a little more in-
jured than the rest though but none of
them needed hospitalization.

All the survivors are still in a
fairlyable condition.

I went yesterday to see Jenny Mary
Jarne. No matter what I say to her
she doesn't believe it was a tornado.
She thinks it was a big earthquake."

Said the professor:

"The unusual manner in which the
wreckage deflected down the streets
of Chesterbourn presents one of the most
difficult problems connected with
the tornado which the most scientific
experts will need to be called
upon to explain. And if they can do
it is the question.

It has been said that the tornado
blew the city every which way, but
it is probable that the explosion

3527. Force of the tornado as is usually distinguished from a mere tornado was even more extended than that and that the whole masses of all buildings were reduced to flying rubble, or torn to splinters and scattered in all directions outward as well as upward.

This tornado did which no winter ever was known to do before. An enormous volume of wreckage of all sorts was sucked high into the air and reviled far above the main whirl pool of the cloud, it attained a height of it has been estimated of fully 16,000 feet above the main whirl pool, where it was reviled and wafted across more than sixty miles of sky in a direction contrary to that of the main swirl of the upper funnel and deposited in a form of a novel and tremendous shower of debris over sixty miles of country all around and into cities towns villages and and all the farms.

The same phenomenon was noted during its passage near through Chesterchire where a great shower of debris made its way northward from the upper part of the tornado's whirlpool to cities and

regions there. I'm more than two years the scientific corps of the Weather Bureau at Washington has been engaged in studying the direction and force of the upward and downward course of the currents of air inside the tornadoes and this phenomena connected with this tornado is almost materially correct them in coming at sound conclusions.

Experienced geologists and meteorologists came here for the purpose of studying these and other strange phenomena of the tornado and valuable scientific results must follow. This is indeed the most horrible disaster of all record and one which we may well pray not to see duplicated. Science however has no means of knowing that it may not occur again.

Then I said:

"There was a small Parakeet folly in Chesterbrown Convent and it used to say in the paters of the city

"Mother of God pray for us, pray for us. But the prayers if offered to the Mother of God were it ineffectual as opposed to the weather."

352? of the tornado which has no
totally overwhelmed Chester Brown
because it was needed by a man's
more - kind?

The Lord had nothing to do with
inefficiency of the prayers" declared
the Professor. The Lord took up the
prayers from the Convent children and
repeated the words of the children. What
were their prayers and what did they
mean.

For many good reasons God does not
answer all prayers, not even
her. Maybe not knowing of any storm
ing disaster no one prayed for the
safety of the city. And then it takes
great faith to win answers to prayers.

Without faith there is no success no
matter how hard they try."

"I have read" I continued during
this storm the biggest trees were
seen to flag the ground with their branches.
How was that?"

That proves that their storms
or trees must have been suddenly
jerked away for some considerable
distance by the forces of the wind
and as suddenly pulled back"

said the Professor.
There was a woman at this
meeting who because of the things

she was dressed was called 3540
the much more of Mrs. Patches. Her
clothing would remind you of the
witch work girl of 13. But she wore
it only while working though not
a hard boiled woman she was very
argument type and very seldom wanted

At a sign from me the woman stood
face to face with us who was again to
decide the fate of the convent.

I saw at a glance how lovely and
sweet she was. The Professor Malone
said:

"You are very argumentative on many
things. Do you really claim that it was
not the tornado, but a big explosion of
gas that blew off the top of the Sacred
Heart Convent?"

"All this fuss is about nothing at
all" she said facing us unabashed.
"You will not prove it was not done
by a gas explosion during the storm so
you have no right to accusing the tornado
for the blast. Search the ruins if
you like but you won't find the evidence.
Look at what is left of the Convent
and you'll find no evidence of the
tornado force there. It was an ex-
plosion of gas, if you don't believe
me I demand that it be proven."

3541 The members of the meeting had
tried to this defense in amazement
and wondered at the queer women
who dare talk to us so boldly. But
most of us sat silent and motionless
and it the Professor professor who answered
her.

'So the tornado didn't demolish the
upper part of the convent eh?' he said. 'I
know it has. For everything there even
for cooking electricity only was used.
How could any explosion make all that
disappear with all the children? I know
the tornado took everything away or
sent all away to the four winds. You
are a stranger here Mrs. Wilkerson
and so you don't know that nothing
has been hidden from the witnesses
nor from others. Look all of you at
this picture of the ruins.'

She sat down admitting that after
all she was mistaken. Then she stood
up again and said:

'I saw the whole disaster. I was near
the Sacred Heart Convent but not in
the path of the storm. It had been
becoming very dark. On a sudden
I heard a general cry "A big cloud
charged is coming on lands the con-
vent. Every body in there will be
lost." Turning my eyes towards

the direction some were pointing 3542
I could perceive a very huge cloud
resembling the house, small, and in
awful convulsions in a most unaccountable
manner as yet no wind was stirring. In
an instant it appeared appeared at some
distance distance as a larger cloud
rising as if it were a mountainous
cloud with a cloud of something being
hurled in all directions before it
like chaff.

Also through the increasing gloom
I observed all distant houses of all sizes
tumbling and being tossed tossed
about as ships in a most violent
tempest of the sea. Many were whirled
about with incredible swift near some
large wooden houses were like ships
being turned keel upward.

"Oh my God!" I cried, "it's a tornado!"
It came on wildly and roaring most
dreadfully, and rushed towards the Sacred
Convent so impetuously that we all
immediately ran for our lives as fast
as possible, many in its path were
swept away we were mingling
with them.

For my part I had the narrowest
escape, though I got out of its path,
for a large beam almost hit me on the

35-49 B back. Then I saw the awful
shroud envelope the Convent with
a redoubled crash the upper parts
seemed to disappear away with every
body in it.

At the same time a great number
of houses, on the street across the
street, all likewise full of people were
swallowed up into the shroud as in
an awful big whirl from rising swiftly
upward and never before appeared,
and not the least sign of any wreck
was ever seen afterwards. I thought the
tornado set off a big gas explosion in
the Convent.

Then another member rose and said:
"Perhaps you may think the present
doleful subject here concluded, but
the hours of the afternoon are sufficient
to fill a volume. As soon as the tornado
passed on another scene presented itself
little less shocking than those
already described.

The whole one third of Southwestern
Chesterham appeared in a blaze that
was terrifying and as it was very
dark because of the storm cloud,
the glow was so bright that I could
easily read by it. It may be
said without exaggeration that it was
on fire in a degree different

"places" at once and thus continued burning - burning - for
fifty minutes without intermission,
and as all water systems were
destroyed and fire departments unpro-
vided there was no means to stop
its progress.

I went on consuming everything
wrecked by the twister and I could never
learn that this terrible fire was
owing to the terrific heat of the
wind as some reported but to three
causing causes which all concurring
at the same time will make a
naturally account for the prodigious
havoc it made.

The fifteenth of August being all
Saints day a high festival among
us Catholics, every altar in every
church and chapel some of which
have more than twenty was illu-
minated with candles, sacred lamps,
and virgel lights as customary there
setting fire to the curtains and
timber work that was demolished
by the storm. The conflagration
soon spread to the neighbouring
wreckage and increased to such
a degree that in time might have
destroyed the whole of Chesterham.

35-71 though no other cause had com-
menced, especially as it met
with no interruption until the
second thunderstorm came up with its
awful squall and blinding rain and in
a very short time as severe as the first
quenched it and the scene of the devastated
continent is considered the most dramatic
and terrible incidents in the whole history
of disasters."

Another man said:

Desolation absolute ruin and dusky
death and injuries for many. That
was the cities from Johnson to Terre
Haute and much further. In the world's
history since mankind was a part of
it there never has been so instant of
extinction of so many lives as
on all these places as far as the
tornado traveled.

Again discussions about
the destruction of so immense
a steel or iron bridge.

Tidal waves so called, great fires
plagues and other great visitations
have slain thousands but not by
means so sudden. In the time
it took the tornado to travel all
the way through Chester to even

itself one third of the
population was destroyed.
probably ten times that

35-48

35-42

much injured many to be crippled
for life and bedridden, a city flung
into ruin all trees and vegetation of all
kinds wiped out from the face of the
earth and panic shook the souls of a
whole nation. But the main subject is
now that big bridge across the Fox river
west of Chesterhire."

"It is a most astonishing and extraordinary
thing" said the professor. It took the
constructors more than five years
to construct that thousand foot
bridge and its anchored foundation of stone
at the cost it is said of about 30,000,000
fifty million dollars.

It had an iron plank walk on
both sides and two lines of rail
road tracks crossing it. The constructors
tried to claim a guarantee that the
monstrous bridge was tornado proof.
And after less than a minute what
is left of it. Everything gone but the
bodily twisted frame work."

"The bridge no matter how strong
can resist a twister" I said.
"Yes that is true" admitted the
professor. This ruined bridge, but yet

1648 not totally wiped out is one of the most remarkable features of the disaster and also was the great topographical changes the storm made and threatened to make of all the other bridges its two long sections being split in two rank down slantwise into the river from the southwest and northeast banks.

The destroyed flooring were flung in the wide river. This easily explains why river communication was all cut off. The river is now non-navigable to even the smallest boats. All portions of that once most magnificent bridge is now utterly useless. Where on the bridge there was such a beautiful flooring there remains but a single particle to show there was any such flooring while the railings of the floor walks on each side has entirely disappeared.

The whole bridge was altered to such an extent as to be completely unrecognizable. Very serious transformations had occurred to the bridge where a considerable section of the northeast end fell slanting down into the river leaving a wide destructive portion of the upper rail and road bed in the

feather flourishing two 3549.
great railroad lines. River vessels that endeavored to approach what was one Chesapeake towards the southwest reported it was over 100 yet nearer than eight hundred feet of the scene of the great bridge catastrophe and even at that distance the water was seriously blocked by the scattered fragments and flooring of the bridge.

The path of the tornado which swept Chesapeake was marked out in a very strange manner. The vicinity of the railroad lines crossing the bridge was swept by a whirlwind of uncommon strength which upped the tree and shattered everything on its passage.

On the other hand, the city on the edge of the river, the center and adjoining parts were covered under scattered wreckage of other places. It was the force of the cyclone was the strongest and most greatest, the strongest houses of stone were leveled like paste board. Some of these had stood a half century. It was like the tremendous force of an avalanche that swept all before it. Then how could

35-56 That supposed to be tornado
proof bridge stand it."

at the meeting was an eye witness
of the destruction of this famous bridge.

He says:

"At quarter to five nothing could
have been more natural and in one
second peaceful than the whole scene
of Chesterhire. Five minutes afterwards
what a change was there. Many of
us were in swimming in the Fox
river some distance south of a east of
the great bridge when we saw something
like wide high shroud start to do
to Chesterhire within our sight the
same thing the death cloud did from
Mr. Pease did to St. Pierre.

It did not appear to churn, though it
was quivering. It is difficult to des-
cribe the scene among us during
the fearful rage of this convulsive
storm. Many fancied that some
great explosion was occurring in the
city, and we all got out of the
winter on a hurry swarming up
to the level bank and made a
simultaneous rush to a hill
with a large single curve
like chamber the women
and children crowded in first

35-57
consideration on every
face and not a word was
spoken for a moment, then a
murmur went up in a sound:
"A tornado. Its tearing Chesterhire
away."

"So it was, the fiercest tornado that
has been seen in any part of this
country in the memory of man.

People who had witnessed the
destruction in St. Louis in May 1896,
people who were in Kansas City
when a great section of the city was
entirely destroyed one who had
been present at the Omaha tornado
all had declared, that such a tornado
as this one surpassed any thing of
the kind that they ever saw or
heard of.

Many of us had become almost
mad with fright, even though it
was sure evident we were too far
north east to be in its path.

The awful loud hurricane like
thunderstorm all night till noon
before had probably terrified
them and also one nearly out
of our senses and now when
we were beginning just beginning
to forget the impression, this
new calamity coming in its

3552 startling suddenness quite
empowered us. Some of us
fell on our knees, and broke
out into frantic prayer, some
raved about the grounds in frantic
prayers of all kinds, some raved in
frantic blasphemies, some tore at their
hair and clothes to pieces in the
intensity of their fear.

Anxious looks also were thrown
by others towards the wildly convul-
sed sky and the city being totally
destroyed. Then almost finished with
Cherlocure the tornado like a tremendous
tidal wave or avalanche was rushing
towards the river and bridge. A moment
more the school reached the
south west river bank and in an
instant all the ground and other
shore earth was one mass of dust
that cloud thousands of feet high.

Few words were now spoken
among us, the ladies still in their
bathing suits clung to those nearest
to them almost in silence. But
the children half wild with ut-
most terror before he came perfectly
unmanageable now, about twenty
of them blind with fear rush-
ed headlong and dived back
into the river, and their example

induced some ladies and 3553
elder children to follow them.

In the meantime the torrid
screaming howling school rushed
swiftly for the bridge. It had
five minutes to prepare for the
shock, and it may well be imag-
ined, though it is impossible to des-
cribe how those five minutes went
by.

Onward the devoted bridge came
the roaring twister, literally piled
up like a mountain of
whirling water, or like a wall
rushing upon the magnificent
structure at a rate I believe a little
more than sixty miles an hour
with a perpendicular face of
fully a mile and three quarters
wide across.

Less than this might well appall
the stoutest heart whether you're on
its path or not. Some one yelled
"Ave it can't hurt the bridge."
"Is tornado proof?"

The way the bridge stretched
and rose across the river ex-
posed it broadside on to the
full force of it storm yet at
first it appeared to meet it like

3554 a very strong wedge and
some cried: 'See, I told you so.
It's holding out against it!'

'Yeah, I see. Huanah. The tornado is
meeting its match at last. Credo!'

"Very good luck to the bridge, defeat
to the tornado," they all shouted.

I said nothing as I was not at all
sure the bridge would win at the
end.

Yet it was observed that the moment
the twister reached this point that
part of the bridge swung around broke
and revolved off its fastenings

so that when it struck the
iron ore bridge it was perhaps not
more than thirty yards higher
than the bridge taffrails. Still
it did seem that the bridge was
still a wedge against the storm.

But the tempest was now worse
than ever and struck the bridge
so fiercely that it almost tore
away the iron girders and frame
work, and screeching and howling
so madly that we could hear
our voices. The bridge almost
torn to shreds still tried to
resist, then the wind as if
enraged because the bridge dared

to resist it suddenly no. 3555-
doubled its fury to insane
immense madness, with a
scream like a million demons it
tore away the girders, steel frame-
work, and then like the open-
ing of a long Gack knife bridge
the long flooring was hurled
upward instantly, and, in a second
tore it all away flinging the
two ends of the bridge violently
down into the river.

Around and over large sections
of the bridge iron girder roof whirled
flew and was flung this way
and that. The wind smashed
the middle section of the bridge
to 'ribbons', twisting the iron frame-
work like wire, pin wire, breaking
to pieces all the upper work
on the side struck.

Had it not been for the course
the twister was on which had
us out of its murderous path
it is likely that we must have
gone with the bridge and the
chances of our lives being saved
would have been almost none.

It was impossible at the time
of this unusual shock to catch a word.

3556 The awful noise on the first appearance of the tornado had increased to such an extent that no human voice could have been audible and as passed on, and struck the bridge by the "broadside" as you could call it, and beat in the most awful fury at the bridge the sound mingled with its echoes from low lying hills and seemed louder than ever.

The storm even leveled the long arched foundation, the chief danger had passed but the great fear that had fallen upon us all restrained as it had been during the crisis by the very extent of the emergency itself now claimed undisputed sway.

Had the children been away it might have been different but the effect of their uncontrolled terror on the ladies was very great children howling, screaming and crying and stamping about the ground like the terrified children they were. By degrees however a little order appeared through the chaos.

Then with the passing of the storm the confusion began to subside. But on the power

bridge Tornado 12204 335-7
Ch. 71 is a total loss beyond all repair I believe"
said I.

To my mind the most singular phenomenon about the destruction of the bridge is the fact that a large portion of its northeastern end was probably flung upward in a vertical direction, afterwards took a horizontal fling, and while it is too early to attempt a definite explanation of this singular phenomenon I am inclined to believe that that end of the bridge was thrown to a very great height, and then was flung down again and descended with great velocity a velocity comparable perhaps with the swiftness of its ascension especially as it near the bridge on its southwest side.

Here the storm winds accordingly deflected it in a horizontal direction. This was action was like a blow pipe effect and it in the direction of the other section of the bridge and wedged it in.

"It is too bad" said the professor.

3358 That such a beautiful city like
Jameville was swept away, blown
off the map, with nothing left
behind, according to the newspapers. I
can't believe it. And its entire population
wiped out. All those thousands. A tornado
never killed all that number before in
all history."

"Those newspaper reports are a most
gross exaggeration," I returned. The pop-
ulation numbered 45,000. Out of that
number 250 were killed and eighteen
hundred injured more or less. It was
during the rescue work that the workers
came across that big book and table
and other articles taken by the tornado
from the Gleason Asylum.

If Jameville had been swept
away they would never have been
found.

Death there was grim enough.
Heaven knows, yet in comparison
with the reach of devastation, single
human creatures are small. The
destruction of an American city
that was an up building of years
of toil, and a culmination of
schemes of art and railroad
and river commerce is more
impressive and even sadder

than those poor wrecks of 3359
flesh and bone being pulled from
the wreckage. I've been at Jameville,
and the usual sign of ruin is

so great that even St. Pierre can com-
pare to it. Big wooden houses are
flattened and scattered like pasteboard.

What all remains of Jameville
even architecture does not exist.
It is a place of broken foundation
and scattered wooden and brick build-
ing rubbish, with more not one pane
of glass for miles.

There is not a yard of clear
street. It is as if hundreds of tons
of dynamite blasts have shaken
the town around. Streets and lanes
and avenues and boulevards lead
nowhere, and the pathos is heightened
at some parts by the names and
numbers stamped on metal street
signs, in white or yellow and
red white and blue enamel; futile
guides read only by "ghosts."

I saw one large building partly
standing with all the exposed
rooms completely denuded of all
the wallpaper.

I stood in one of the streets
I know not its name, formerly

3560 lined with attractive shops and gay with color and see it now with skeletons of brick houses on either side, the windows staring like right loss eyes the doors gaping like ruff scated mouths the pavements heaped with all sorts of scattered debris the wooden buildings shambles to note the ~~off~~ fixity and silence is to stand in the presence of death, death enthroned on the fierce fury of the twister. The world has no other spectacle like that from Johnson town to Jannelle to day.

So complete is the destruction of all these places that little remains to mark the character of the buildings. The partial cognom of masonry might be a house, a stable, a shop, a factory chunch or jail. Now and again despite the ravagerness of the twister there was left a yard or corral with flower pole or a flower lawn that denoted a farmer's home or the moneyed resident but which was his house which his office which his carriage or automobile shed or garage which his servant quarters is more guess. And this wide thr own

down of walls and block-3561 ing of streets makes it hard to estimate the size of the city of Jannelle. ^{There is no doubt} of that the newspaper reports of the fatality and the complete wiping out of Jannelle is immensely exaggerated."

One of the most curious alleg-ments of this tornado is that it every where "as and wide skeletons and fragments of human bones" said the professor. "Many fell in So Salle many coming to Joliet."

It is most unusual conduct in skeletons and bones to endure a drop of miles to some towns."

"How many skeletons and bones were there?" I asked Professor Miline. "They were countless. They fell everywhere out of the path of the storm. They must have come from an ravaged grave yards."

"There is another mystery" said Dorothy herself. "What mystery?" asked the professor.

About that enormous miry ground that the storm played "roll" the "harp with"

"Yes I remember that declared

3562 the professor "The wind must have been unnaturally strong to have accomplished that feat. It tore it loose crowded with mostly women and children and rolled it down the street more than three hundred yards. It was so big and heavy the wind strong as it was could not roll it fast. Soon it was left standing still upright in the middle of the street. The main mystery though was not a single person on it was hurt."

"Did it roll it fast?" asked Angelina.

"No" was the answer. "that was one time when the tornado met its match but now lets get back to that mysterious strange child head for which this meeting is about"

"I saw that from my farm near Gleason" said another member. "I'd like to give a good description about it first. That'll help us on the debate later."

"Go ahead"

"I was hard at work on my farm after the rain storm to try to restore some of my smaller crops too much flood and uprooted"

by the down pour" he said. "We had now reached the parakey field, and I could have accomplished my work on this route well my youngest sons but while we work my eldest son pointed towards the sky, to nearly overhead."

"Looking upward, there appeared to be happening an event to the rear stretch of the passing thunder cloud, such as never happened before for mortal man to see, or at least such as no man could really totally describe"

The rear of the storm cloud was instead of receding, growing larger and much darker and increasing its size towards the southwest. This new formation rose a sheer unobstructed rolling mass upward, far above its bosom."

"I cannot, cannot describe the actual shape it took then, but in truth, I was so deeply excited by it that I fell at full length upon the ground between the crops, clung to them and dared not even glance upward at the cloud while I struggled in vain to divert myself of the

5514 I saw that the lowest sections of the cloud looked to be in danger from some kind of furious winds. Yet it was not long before I could reason my self into sufficient courage to sit up and look out into the distant east.

I looked dizzily and beheld a wide expanse of cloud formation where there should have been a clearing sky. whose cloudiness wore so inkly a hue as to bring at once to my mind the hubian geographers account of the Mare Nubeculosum.

A panorama more deplorably desolate no human imagination can conceive. To the north or south as far as the eye could reach there lay outstretched above, like ramparts of the world, waves of horribly black and beetling cloud whose character of gloom was but the more forcibly illustrated by strange under surf of gray clouds moving from southwest and northeast unusually swift. That gave me the feeling that something radically was wrong. Bounding upwards I said to my sons who too was watching

3565

2

Room 105 - 6

Sept 27, 1968

Norma Pietri

Arnold W. G. C.

Guidance

1. What do you think is the main idea of the movie?

The main idea is about how we keep together doing things.

The strange is cloud show.

"Boys" I said: "Look at that, I'm afraid a tornado is forming."

They didn't answer, but kept their eyes on the antics of the clouds.

Just opposite the promontory of this canopy of darkness at a distance to the west, there became visible a small, bleak looking cloud, or more properly its position was distinguished or discernable through the wildness of surge clouds in which it was enveloped.

Some what nearer the main cloud descended another of smaller size. He dourly craggy and larger.

3566 and compared at various intervals by a cluster of clouds of a strange brown clo color which is never seen in an artists paint box, and which he could never make.

When the appearance of this main cloud began to have something very unusual about it, although at the time, so strong a gale following after the passing storm was still blowing, northeastward that trees waved and roared, there was nothing in the main cloud, like a regular natural forward movement but only a short, very strange quick angry cross dashing of cloud, one layer about or above the other in every direction, even upward and downward, as well as in the teeth of the wind or otherwise.

There were clouds even in the form of long foaming waves on a sea beach.

One of my sons suddenly said:

"Pa do you hear any living. Do you see any change in that large dark cloud?"

Norma Rubin
Arnold, D.C.

Room 105 - Block 6

Nov 20, 1969

Trial Test Spelling 10

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. science | 24. granate x germinate |
| 2. cell | 25. stralisy x sterilize |
| 3. suite x salite | 26. somatition x sanitation |
| 4. section | |
| 5. cure | |
| 6. percentage | |
| 7. gym | |
| 8. gymnasium | |
| 9. pledge | |
| 10. amand ornament x amendment | |
| 11. division | |
| 12. business x business | |
| 13. zero | |
| 14. engine | |
| 15. invasion x incubation | |
| 16. interest x interest | |
| 17. honey | |
| 18. greatly | |
| 19. pulse | |
| 20. retina x retina | |
| 21. subeance x cerebrum | |
| 22. parasit subam x parasite | |
| 23. pollen | |

3567 "We had now been ten minutes on the grounds. As my son spoke, I became aware of a strange gradually increasing sound, loud and very mysterious.

It did sound as we heard the same noise on the American prairie that put me in mind of a very large herd of buffaloes and at the same moment I perceived what sea men term the chopping character of the ocean appears on the under surface of the cloud rapidly changing into two currents which set to the northeastward and northwest.

Even while I gazed these currents suddenly acquired a monstrous fury and velocity.

"For Gods sake what that?" my two sons cried together, pointing upward towards the near blue sky beyond the black sky. Yet I saw it at the same time. A cloud formed suddenly in the shape of a little girls head facing me, tongue sticking out of its open mouth, and not having what you could call eyes.

Norma Pictri
Arnold J. D. C.

Room 105 - 6-
Sept 9, 1968

Numbers	Meaning	addition	subtraction
Numbers	Meaning	addition	subtraction
Numbers	Meaning	addition	subtraction

whole	Fraction	Multiplication
whole	Fraction	Multiplication
whole	Fraction	Multiplication

Division	Multiply	measure	solve
Division	Multiply	measure	solve
Division	Multiply	measure	solve

Problems	subtract	Decinap
Problems	subtract	Decinap
Problems	subtract	Decinap

Divide	graph	Percent	numeration
Divide	graph	Percent	numeration
Divide	graph	Percent	numeration

ten the	point	Hundred
ten the	point	Hundred
ten the	point	Hundred

3568 A body almost the form of
the child's attached to the neck,
while two long hands and two
arms stretched forward as if
something strangling the child.

Great lightning flashed from
the tongue and in all my life
I've never heard such awfully too
loud thunder.

In five minutes the whole
lower cloud especially the belly
shaped form was lashed into a
fury that appeared most ungovernable
but it was between the neck and
chin that the main uproar
held its sway.

The horrid tongue.

Here the vast lid of the lower
cloud stretched from the neck
seamed and scamed into a thousand
conflicting seeming to be water
channels, bursting at the belly
part suddenly into the most
frenzied convulsions, hearing
boiling hissing gurgling in
gigantic and unnumberable
fierce voices and all whirling
and plunging on to the straight

1 3569

M. SALARIO
Chicago Public Schools

January 14, 1969
Room 105 - 6 grad

Norma Pietri
Arnold J. & C.

Spelling

dash	bef-fa-lo	he-ro	ra-di-a
dash	bef-fa-lo	he-ro	ra-di-a
dash	bef-fa-lo	he-ro	ra-di-a
dash	bef-fa-lo	he-ro	ra-di-a
dash	bef-fa-lo	he-ro	ra-di-a

fun-ior	stoop	bloom	loose
fun-ior	stoop	bloom	loose
fun-ior	stoop	bloom	loose
fun-ior	stoop	bloom	loose
fun-ior	stoop	bloom	loose

nearest word as if gone 3 mad.
and with a rapidity that ^{EXCELLENT} had
the cloud been a mass
of water, then with a speed water
never assumes elsewhere except
in precipitous descents. Then to
my shock the belly of the
cloud reared, burst like a big
explosion, with a big loud
'poof' sound.

In a few minutes after

3570 there came over the scene another ~~very~~ radical alteration. First came another terrific flash of blinding lightning, from the tongue followed by a crash of thunder that seemed ten times louder than the other stuff put together. There followed an awful concussion.

Of the other main cloud the general under surface grew more what more smooth, and the whirlpools one by one disappeared while prodigious streaks of foam like clouds became apparent where none were seen before.

The tongue stuck out more, the head swaggared, the breasted body reformed by bigger struggles. Then the tongue ~~in~~ stuck way out with a gasping sound and entering into combination took unto itself the gyratory motion of the subuded waters and seemed to form the germ of another more vast. The head got into a strange motion as if it was going to fall backward and an awful loud humming sound came from it while the neck

appeared to be constructed 3571 very lightly. Suddenly, very suddenly the tongue, first, stuck out very much further, convulsed, and actually almost assumed a distinct and definite existence with a ball formation at its lower part and seemed to fall swiftly to the ground, the lower part bursting like the explosion of a hundred tons of dynamite at once.

The upper edge of the wheel seemed to be represented by a broad belt of gleaming spray. The funnel was a very long one and inclining to the southwest direction at an angle of which I may say of some forty five degrees.

I never saw before a funnel spreading so dizzily around before, and with such a sweltering and swaying motion, and sending to the skies such an appalling sound, terrible shriek, a more like the howling of a million voices, half roar and sounds too such as not

7570 even a hundred of the mighty
cataracts of the Niagara could into
one, could ever lift up into their
almost agony towards Heaven and
down to earth together. The ground
trembled where we stood, and our
trees swayed back and forth.

Then the funnel slowly got
enveloped in a high, irregular
shaped shroud, and the humming
sound far above was deepening
and coarser.

I threw myself upon my face
and clung to the cabbage plants
in an excess of nervous agitation.

His right hand by no means
prepared me for what I saw.

That head still retained its
shape with open mouth and the
inner tongue still protruding
but much wider than its
long lower extremity.

No one could ever to see
their lives impart the faintest
conception of either the great
magnificence or the horror of
the scene or of the wild be-
wildering sense which accompan-
ied its beholders, an idea
of this awful spectacle was

exceedingly feeble in 3573
conveying an impression of this
dreadful spectacle. I saw the horrible
tornado run up the country side
between two big farms with almost
boisterous rapidity, but still now the
 roar of its impetuous rush across
the farms could not be equaled
by a hundred of the loudest and
most dreadful cataracts.

I never believe a tornado could
make such a loud commotion, the
noise I heard it later be said,
heard a good number of leagues
off.

A large farm was finally in its
dreadful path, and was inevitably
absorbed, the houses seeming to dis-
appear in a cloud of dust. The storm
became much more boisterous
and its fury heightened by the
back of the down wind current and
everything on farms were carried
away. It was now impossible
to describe the howlings and
bellowings as it drew up, closer,
raging with such noise and
impetuously that the very stones of
my barn near the roof fell
to the ground. Heaven be

35-7th thanked we were and
my farm way out of its path.
Such a storm as now blew it
is folly to attempt describing.

The oldest man in this
part of the country never saw
anything like it and for which
the people of this part of this part
of the world will never forget
for it was the most terrible tornado
that ever came out of the very
clouds.

And to save my life I can't
do to describe the yell the yells
common like yells that went up to
the heavens from that tornado as I
saw it strike Johnston town head
on. I couldn't see much which it
did because the blasted shroud
enveloped Johnston town but I saw
roofs sailing away through and
from it.

But when it passed on to the
north-east we saw the houses.
Houses had collapsed as if made of card-
board paper. Brick houses were
shambles. I got as quickly a
large party of farmers and
all of us ran over to the wreck
age of the houses. We could hear

the groans of the dying and the
wails of the injured and terror-
stricken women and children. The
devastation of this town was so
unbelievably terrible that we wondered
at the small number of the killed
and injured.

We learned later that the greater
majority of the town folk heard
and saw the twister on time and
fled to their cellars and basement.
The population of this town had
been eighteen hundred.

I entered a house, or what had
been a house and saw a dead
woman. We got all of the injured
out of the ruins and first brought
them to the fields.

We came upon a house which
had been badly wrecked and
moved all the way off its
foundation but we found a
mother and two little boys
and a girl lying asleep upon
a bed uninjured at another place
a man was doing work in
a basement. His house was
carried away and he was

3577

more and left standing with a very surprised look on his face uninjured. Houses look as if they had been rolled and tumbled along the ground yet a big thrashing machine the size I never saw before which had been standing near one of the houses had mysteriously been left behind by the twister without being too tossed over or the slightest damaged.

All electric wires were torn down telephones were out of commission and some of the surviving houses not in its path were practically boxes of frightened people. We found later of the known dead in Johnston town was one hundred and fifty one. More than fifteen hundred were made homeless. Strangely the number of injured were less than the number of dead. Aside from this 3000 buildings were more or less damaged some of these being churches and school buildings. Eight of Johnston towns public schools were wrecked. All forms of

3577

communications were almost entirely annihilated by the wind. The 3578 storm took down all the wires in its path and all the electric power was shut off immediately to prevent further loss of life. The few injured were brought to the nearest farm houses and doctors called from Gleason.

The storm swept almost the full town for its entire length and width. The reports of the town being totally wiped out and its population annihilated was a gross sexual exaggeration. And the storm also was not at all as strong yet as when it hit Gleason twenty minutes later.

Though exaggerated the destruction in Johnston town was well nigh appalling. Whole blocks of homes were picked up and dashed into shapeless masses, or actually shrapnel. The few street cars that were there were hurled from the tracks and demolished into a total wreck. The vast damage done and the largest loss of life

3579 occurred in the central part of the city of Johnston town, a part of the east escaping a big school house full of children on a banquet in its banquet hall was not directly in the path of the twister but many of its windows were broken by the vibration caused by its awful loud uproar in passing by.

Estimates of the value of the demolished property caused by the storm are estimated at \$15,000,000.

1200 homes were totally destroyed and 2000 damaged more or less and more than a hundred and twenty bodies were recovered.

Some of the more substantial buildings are to be rebuilt but this number is small and where the local buildings have not been torn asunder it was found they have been so twisted that even the material was useless for any attempt at rebuilding.

"Do you recall any other action of the storm?" asked the Professor.

"Well how Johnston town escaped total destruction I cannot say for I never had an

opportunity for or of ascertaining. 3580
When the storm was devastating the small city, I and my two sons had thrown ourselves flat on the ground with my feet to the south and with my hands again grasping the cabbage roots.

It was more instinct that really prompted me to do this - which was undoubtedly the very best thing I could have done - for I was too much flurried to think.

For a few minutes or moments we were completely deluged from flying wreckage from the passing twister devastating the town. I was trying to get the better of the stupor that had come over me and to collect my senses so as to see what the twister was doing.

I could not see because of the large shroud yet no one can imagine my feelings that I had at that moment.

At the roar of the twister and knowing what it was doing to the town so fiercely I was shaking from head to foot as if I had the most violent fit of the ague, the tornado had been bound for the town and nothing

3581 nothing could save it? don't know how long it took the twister to reach Johnson town but you perceive that in first crossing the fields, it went up a long way over the country, on a slant course, and strangely never so much as to swerve off its course or zigzag as most tornadoes do in moving forward.

To be sure I thought the tornado may yet change its course even such a tornado as this there is some little hope in that - but the next moment I cursed my self for being such a fool as that as to dream of hope at all.

I knew very well Johnson town was doomed, my home town had it been ten times its size. By this time the worst fury of the tempest had not yet been reached or perhaps we did not see it seem to but at all events the wreckage of the town which was being widely scattered by the savage wind now seemed to swirl up in great scattering clouds.

A singular change too had come over the heavens.

Around in every direction 3582

It was still as black as pitch but nearly overhead all at once a circular blinding fury, as fierce as we ever saw, and of an orange hue, and I thought it then blazed forth a full series of simultaneous yellow orange forked lightning with a luster that I never knew before to see.

The flasher though secondary lit up everything about us with the greatest distinctness, but of God what a wild scene it was to light up. The thunder made a continuous tumultuous sound, like the loud crackling roar of those type of bunches of two or three fire crackers when set off and lasted more than a minute before dying out.

I made two attempts to speak to
longly living in that long house by himself
but I feel sorry for him & hate to be in
with him, I don't know how long
man. He looks young people. What the matter
with it to get possession. He thinks I said to
to the market do you want to go
my nose, but in some manner
which I could not understand

Norman Rubin
Kenneth A. B. C.

[Redacted]
Rodriguez

Room 605 - Blvd 6

1. Whose idea was the canal expedition?
2. How was the idea
3. How was the idea
4. Where did the money for the expedition come from?
5. When did the money from the United States Congress
6. How long did the canal from England?
7. How long in 1866 they were in England, nearly to
8. How long into the valley deeply.

as if to say listen. at first ?
could not make out what he meant

35-84 But soon a hedger.

It thought came to me. I dragged my watch from its fob. It was not going. I couldn't see its face because of the darkness and then burst into tears as I replaced it. It had run down, I could not brie the duration of the storm raging at it. were now and the whirl of this air storm was in full fury.

I would not have believed that a winter could have such unceasing fury. The uproar made me sick and dizzy as if I was falling from some lofty mount air top in a dream. But in a second time I had thrown a quick glance around and that one glance was sufficient.

I saw the exact situation in an instant. The whirl pool air storm was tearing up everything with a fury in a fury you could not conceive more than dozen of times the fierceness of a tornado before.

If I had not known where we were and what we had

to see being done 35-85
to Johnson town I should have not have recognized the storm at all because of its dark shroud.

As it was I closed my eyes light together involuntarily as if my eyes were in a spasm to shut out this unspeakable horror.

All other sounds above was completely drowned in a kind of shrill shriek, such a sound as you might imagine gunnery water pipes of many thousands of steam ships letting off their steam all together mingled simultaneously with all other uproarious sounds beyond imagination. Some said to me there sounds like you hear when inside a roller skate work.

It may appear strange now, when the little city was on the very jaws of the storm, I felt somewhat more composed than when the cyclone was only approaching the town. Having made up my mind not to hope any more, I got rid of a great deal of fear panic and alarm which I was

3586 sure was unmanly me
at first. I suppose my nervous
nerves were so strong I was in
despair. It may look like boasting
but what I tell you in truth, I began
to reflect how magnificent thing
it was to die with some of those
poor souls of the ravaging storm,
in such a manner, and how foolish
I was to think of so paltry a
thing in consideration as my own
life, in view of so wonderful a
manifestation of God's great and unusual
power.

I do believe I blushed with shame
when this idea crossed my mind.

After a little while a few seconds
at least I became possessed with
the keenest curiosity about the
whole itself.

I positively felt a wish to ex-
plore its interior even at the
sacrifice I would have made and
my principal grief was that
I should never be able to tell
my friends and relations about
the mysteries I should see.

There no doubt were very
irregular fancies to occupy a

3587
a man's mind in such unusual
and I have often
thought since that the sight of the
revolutions of the immense shroud
around the funnel of death and
destruction might have rendered me
somewhat light headed.

For five seconds as I took courage
and once again looked upwards I
shall never forget the sensation of
awe, horror and admiration with which
I gazed upwards. The shroud for
those few seconds appeared to be
hanging as if by magic midway
down from the top upon the side
surface of a funnel vast in cir-
cumference, prodigious in height,
and whose perfectly smooth smooth
sides might have been mistaken
for ivory, but for the bewildering
rapidity with which they spun
around faster probably than an electric
motor and for the gleaming and
strange ghastly radiance they
so mysteriously shot forth.

At first I was too much
confused to observe any thing very
accurately.

The general burst of terrific grandeur

3588 was all I beheld. When I recovered myself a little my gaze went instinctively upward. In this direction I was able to obtain an unobstructed view while it so shortly lasted, from the manner in which the shroud hung on the upper inclined surface of the upper part of the terrible whirlpool of wind.

But the lower part of the shroud I covered and shrouded the town and because of that I still could make out nothing distinctly was what the twister was doing to the town: especially on account that the shroud was like a thick mist in which every thing was thickly enveloped.

This mist or spray of cloud shroud as was no doubt occasioned by the extremely violent clashing of the great walls of the funnel as they all met together at the lower extremity but again I will say that the terrific upsurge that went up to the very heavens from out of that shroud no one can describe or imagine to save their lives. The first slide of the upper part of the shroud from

The main cloud above had 3589 lowered itself to a great distance downward down the side of the funnel, but its further descent was by no means proportionate. Round and round it swept, not with any uniform movement, but with dizzying swings and jerks that sent some of that section of shroud only a few hundred yards. and secondly the complete circuit of the whirl.

Its progress downward at each revolution was slow but very perceptible. Before it passed on, and then after it passed on one of my sons said the twister by being able to time his watch lasted a minute and sixteen seconds.

This short experience had made my friends after that be unable to not know me no more than as if I was a traveler from the strange land of spirits. My hair which had been raven black a minute before was as white as you see it now. They say too that the whole expression of my countenance has changed so this

33-90 experience I've had this event is such as never happened to me before and the minute and sixteen seconds of deadly terror which I then endured have me still broken up body and soul. You people here suppose me an old man, a very old man but I am not. It took even less than a minute and sixteen seconds to change these hairs from a jetty black to white to weaken my limbs and to unstrung my nerves so that I tremble now at the least exertion, and shadow even frighten me."

At this instant, unexpectedly the janitor of the building came tearing into the room.

"Every one were dunces" he shrieked & shaking his long finger into the air "Why did so many stand around idle when Johnston town was in danger. The town was in danger. Gleason was in danger, the big orphanage was in danger of being destroyed utterly, utterly utterly utterly."

Racing round in a fancied circle he tore at his hair.

"Shut up" I shouted. "You're

disturbing this important meeting" I saw

33-91
I saw Dorothy and Angelina still tearful.

"What has happened are you still disturbed?" I asked.

"I was listening to him tell the fearful story" wailed Angelina.

A ~~fierce~~ nervous and wicked habit" fumed the janitor shaking his finger at the trembling little girl "What kind of stories may I ask?"

"About the destruction of Johnston town."

Burying her head in her hands Angelina began to weep afresh.

"There there" I begged patting her kindly on the shoulder. "Don't cry my dear."

"Let her cry!" roared the janitor stamping furiously up and down. "He maul mischief-an wench with listening to storm stories could have ruined us all. Nothing could save Johnston town. Not even Heaven or earth."

In to emphasize his gloomy prediction he donned his hat and

7572 here and there.

"I must think about that crazy cloud shape" muttered the professor in a faint voice.

"I think if you can" snuffed the janitor. "Can you think of the cause of the clouds strange shape. Can you think of a way to solve that mystery? What do you call that. Were those cities to be destroyed without lifting a finger to save them?"

My feelings over came me and rushing forward I began to shake the janitor violently to and fro.

"I told you to hush" I turned. Besides you crashed this meeting with an invasion. If you were not smaller than me I'd punch you one. Now get out"

As I let go, he slowly turned but took his time in walking out.

"Well now how about the strange head cloud?" asked the professor. "Could any one ever solve that strange mystery?"

"If we cant" exclaimed one of the members "nobody can. It is the most greatest and extraordinary phenomenon on all records I've seen all

Norma Peltis
Annapolis D.C.

Room 103-6. Brad
Oct 22, 1968

Spelling

bench	whole	young	chose	length	leather
bench	whole	young	chose	length	leather
bench	whole	young	chose	length	leather

method	thunder	oakes	polish	punish
method	thunder	oakes	polish	punish
method	thunder	oakes	polish	punish

punishment	branch	ashamed	worship
punishment	branch	ashamed	worship
punishment	branch	ashamed	worship

churn	salad	ribbon	dispatch	perish
churn	salad	ribbon	dispatch	perish
churn	salad	ribbon	dispatch	perish

lither	astonish	lifelong	sash	motion
lither	astonish	lifelong	sash	motion
lither	astonish	lifelong	sash	motion

Concession
concession
concession

35-76 if types of clouds take the
strangest shapes even of approximating
but not like this and that
tornado to form between two thunder-
storms is most astonishing the more

heard or seen anything like it in
my life. But I know what made it
make that straight bee line"

"How" asked the Professor.

"Caught between them it had to go
where they went. How otherwise and
the tornado traveled the same speed
they did"

"I believe you're right" everybody
said in a chorus.

"Now then Reuben" the Professor said
to another learned looking man "I want
you to tell me the truth about this
matter. The man who told us the
long story that you might be able
to solve this strange mystery and
I made up my mind to try
to solve why the cloud took that
form, and why between two
violent thunderstorms, but I find it
a most extraordinary phenomena
to solve"

He stopped as if expecting Reuben
to say something. But that Scientist
having not much to say more,

replied.

35-77
I can see so many have
told me about that strange
head phenomena.

"What do you think about it Mr.
Reuben?"

I don't know if I know anything
about it or not. It has also
in two other tornadoes. Reuben re-
plied opening his eyes.

"Now look here Reuben" the
Professor said gravely. "I'm dis-
posed to think of you as a
very learned Scientist and although
although I consider it a serious

mystery I shall consider it
very much out of the way if
it can't be solved."

"But I didn't stop study it
Mr. Reuben affirmed. "I never
discovered such a thing could ever
form between two such great
thunderstorms"

3593

I saw the Professor set his
lips and to gether.

"Just graphically tell
your story over again" the
Professor who gave the long narrative
the head and tongue.

Well that afternoon the Professor as said
observed that cloud head foot and
prolonging tongue just as I and
my sons got into the fields to
do some weeding.

It was too dark to see
its face perfectly as it fronted
me but I naturally supposed it
were an extraordinary phenomenon
so I said something to my sons.

But the enormous spoke the
lower cloud stretching across the
sky connecting with the neck
suddenly got into uncontrollable
fury, lightning bright enough to
blind you what from the tongue
three times followed by thunder
so loud as I've never heard all
my life before.

Well I thought it was very
 queer and kept our eyes on the
 freak clouds about a minute
 afterwards, while doing some

50

the clouds in the field 35-94
the head and a loud and
strange sound from the tongue
as if great head of English
Norman Retic were moaning Room 105-6
Arnold E. E. C. and bellows Sept 6, 1968

and I looked up to see what was the
matter. The main cloud
was in the crazy action I
told you of
I kept at it, when of
all of a sudden there came
a loud sort of yell from
the heads mouth, then
tongue fell out and down
to the distant horizon
though the ball exploded
into a shroud of clouds
and rushed on towards
the near by fields
warily.

As I told you before
I could not see what it
was doing to Johnsons
because the shroud en-
veloped it.

I thought it was no
good telling any one about
until I attended this
meeting of course I
feared no one would

1. Numbers
2. meaning
3. addition
4. Subtraction
5. whole
6. Fraction
7. Multiplication
8. Division
9. Mallepla
10. macher
11. Sofa
12. probable
13. Subtract
14. Resonance
15. Divich
16. Graph
17. percent
18. Numeration
19. ten tens
20. ~~point~~
21. hunder

95-95 believe it. Now I tell it to you
and I could scarcely expect any
of you to put more faith in
it than any one else - I had there not
been so many countless witnesses
to it. Thinking it over and seeing
how sudden it was I come to the
opinion as how it would be the
most worst tornado on all record
and the hour it was committing
in Johnson town.

Seeing afterwards all it did, I'm
sure for certain that even Mt. Pelée
never did to St. Pierre as this
tornado did to Johnson town.

"You hear that Scientist
Reuben Whitney what have you
to say?" the professor asked.

"So far I've got nothing to
say sir," Reuben answered, "except
that the red cloud did take on a
very freakish form and that tongue
was soon to be the tornado com-
ing crashing down. If you who
are professors on tornadoes can't
answer this question then you must
now that believe I fear
nothing about it without some
studying on it."

Normal Pictorial
Donald H. D.C.

Room 105, Blvd 6
Nov 21, 1969

Science

1. pituitary gland - a central center in the base
of the brain which secretes (gives off) two
types of hormones (chemical messengers) into
blood stream: 1 for controlling body growth
2. for maturing ova (eggs) located in the ovaries
2. ovulation - a ripened ovum leaves the ovary
and begins its journey through the
Fallopian tube.
3. Corpus luteum - the place in the ovary from
which the ovum has been expelled. This spot
turns yellow and produces a hormone
(chemical messenger) which stimulates the
growth of the endometrium.
4. endometrium - the lining of the uterus
which builds up gradually with watery
fluids and blood. If the ovum is fertilized
by a male cell, it remains in the endome-
trium where it is nourished, during
pregnancy. If egg is not fertilized, the
endometrium passes out of the uterus during
menstruation.

3516. Well Reuben it will be easy for you to clear the mystery by saying that probably between the storms a rush of cool and warm air met and clashed between the two thunderstorms. What a clock was it? Home that you saw the Break Phenomenon take place?

"It was just about quarter to four professor the three struck just as I opened the gate to go into the field. It was getting somewhat dark then and raining a little."

"Were you out anywhere at that time or at home Re Reuben?"

"I was out professor. I went to a store in Gleason."

"What time did you leave the store?" "I left at half past three professor."

"Then if you went in at three o'clock it is clear after all you might not have seen the storms break head Scientist Reuben, the professor said. If any one tells me that you were in before quarter after four that settles the question as far as you are concerned"

3596
I didn't get in at all when it came to four o'clock or at least ten after professor. The

Norma Reuben

Simultaneous

Room No. 1006

Nov 21, 1967

A home for a baby

A baby needed to have a good home. Because it needed care from the mother and father, it needed to have a home that people who adopt and children who needed mother and father and a home to.

Scientist said. I walked about a bit after I came out of the store, heard a strange sound, looked up and saw the strange freak head with a protruding tongue come from the open mouth and hit the distant horizon with bursting fury. When it finally hit Gleason I was not in that part of the city."

"Was any one with you Reuben? Was there any one to say what time you saw that between ten after four and half past?"

"No sir Reuben said quietly. I didn't speak"

3597 to a soul and didn't see
a soul so far as I know from
the time I came out of the
store till I was on my way
home."

"Did or does any other of your
fellow scientists know of this head cloud
phenomenon?" the professor said
pointing to the drawing of the cloud
phenomena I had drawn.

Scientist Reuben looked at the
drawing.

"Yes sir in fact they all do without
the slightest doubt."

"Well Mr Reuben" the professor
said "you must acknowledge that the
case looks very ugly against the
phenomena of the storm, yet some
I hope by God's help will be able
to solve it. You are known to
be one of the most great and learned
scientists at this meeting naturally
enough I admit."

A Scientist of your learning
as well as others of the National
Weather Bureau say you too did
observe the head freak of the
storm formation and that you saw
it was forming for no good
purpose is proved by the fact

Norma Reuben
Arnold & Co.

Denise

- 76
- 3598
- Room 105 - Box 6
Nov 22, 1969
1. true C
 2. ~~true~~ false C
 3. true C
 4. ~~true~~ false C
 5. false C
 6. false C
 7. true X
 8. true C
 9. ~~true~~ true C
 10. ~~true~~ true X
 11. true C
 12. ~~true~~ false C
 13. false X
 14. true C
 15. true C
 16. true X
 17. true C
 18. true C
 19. ~~true~~ false C
 20. true C
 21. ~~true~~ ~~true~~ true C
 22. true X
 23. true C
 24. true X
- that it became the most
dangerous and violent winter
on all record since the birth
of the Weather Bureau. A quarter
of an later the small city
of Johnsontown is devastated.
That head you say then
struck a bigger, much
harder blow at Gleason
wiped out Gleason Asylum
for orphans and then war
hell bent for Chester Brown,
and then by your admission
you were out and about the
time that hood cloud
head phenomena took place
and you saw it. The case
looks very bad against it
if the mystery can be
solved."
- "I don't care how it looks"
- Reuben said passionately.
- "If it is ever the last word"

3599 I ever speak. Let me take a good look at the picture Mr. Danger drew. I may discover something there."

"Very well," the Professor said hopefully, "in my mind the evidence is everwhelmingly against that twister. Besides, what caused it to form between the two storms? We have lots of time to peruse this matter, if this meeting has to last three weeks now, well, any of us can give up on the matter for if we fail, it may bring disgrace upon us. We've got to win no matter what."

An interesting debate on the strange child head.

There were also three magistrates of Gileason at this meeting when Scientist Reuben was questioned. I indeed I forgot to mention that at the meeting hall was crowded for this strange tornado head freak had caused some great excitement among all these members and the news that the

Norma Petri
Arnold & S.C.

Room 105 - Strangle 6
January 14, 1969

Science

1. Atoms are so tiny that there are more of them in this letter - O - than there are people in the world.
2. Elements A substance made up of one kind of atom.
3. sodium A whitish element which when combined chemically with chlorine makes salt.
4. electron microscope A microscope that uses a beam of electrons to produce an enlarged image of extremely tiny objects on a fluorescent screen or photographic plate.
5. radium A radioactive element which is constantly disintegrating and releasing bits of its atoms in tiny flashes.
6. compound A substance formed by the combination of two or more.

3600 tongue became the master
and committed all that uncon-
ceivable destruction had created

Chemical Elements

quite a sensation.

Another member by his name of
Mr. Ellison was the first to give
his evidence. He testified that on walking
home through the street at Johnsontown
itself he found the cloud at a distance
had taken on the strangest shape.

He usually was not in the habit
or even interested in the formation of
any clouds and had not known
know what to make of it.

He found that the cloud had taken
the shape of the head of a girl child
being strangled with protruding tongue.

This was not discovered until
he heard strange noises from the
main cloud.

He found that the formation
of the slowly passing thunderstorm had
increased westward instead of receding
wards the west and the newly
formed cloudiness was in strange
and terrible commotion.

"What do you estimate the
size of that cloud?" asked Mr. Ellison?

page 47.

Norma Latin
Arnold B.B.C.

Damon, Boy of The
Golden Age

3601
Room 105 - Black 6
Oct 23, 1968

- 1. Four slaves worked in Damon's house. They prepared
the food, fetched the water, and helped make the family clothing.
- 2. The Market Place of Athens.

1. The center of the broad square was
filled with small wooden booths, each
crammed with different wares.

A School Day in Ancient Athens.

- 2. "I did not give the cloud
a good once over? I was too scared".
All the other members proved
that they saw the same. Directly
it was discussed the constable of
Johnsontown gave evidence as to
the state of the main cloud
and the head when he too saw
it. He testified as to the sudden
forming of the freak and said
that the manner in which the
head had gone to work and in
the tongue had torn through Johnson-
town, and the town forced to

3602 pieces where it struck seemed to show sure enough that it to be the work of the strongest twister on all record. The extreme west of the small city was missed, On screaming closely the savages across the Northwest of Johnson town he found indeed it had been an unusual strong tornado.

The chief Constable then read the statement that others had made to him. The magistrates conferred together for a few minutes in an undertone.

"Dorothy Gale" the senior of them said addressing the little girl who was sitting on front by my wishes with Angelina "we are sorry to trouble you but we must ask you little girl though you are to go into the witness box I wish to ask you" he went on, when she had taken her stand in the box.

How it was your opinion the storm took form between the two others because of your opinion of two cross counter winds?

"Because I do believe it is so" Dorothy answered. I believe a chilly current coming from

Norma Pittie
Arnold V. & C.

23603
Room 105-6 Grade
Nov 26, 1968

Snow

Snow is bright, and flakes fall at night. I think of snow on Christmas night, when Santa comes I'll go to bed, I'll dream of Santa coming on his sled.

By Norma Pittie

the northwest swept around the southern edge of the westerly storm finally curving around its southeast and entering the center between the two storms. A southeast wind up that high with just as strong a current swept around the north of the first storm, then curved from the northeast ^{My SALAD meet} the other current ^{Chicago Public Schools} coming from the south.

Then they met together in the center of the clear space between the storms and the result might have been the same as when you let the hot air into the long cold steam pipe radiator in a school room. You what a noise that starts? a sawing

3604 recognize that loud banging sound every time the steam is turned on"

There was a deep silence in the meeting hall when Dorothy gave her opinion. Hitherto the impression had been rather favorable to the Professor's argument on that statement. His story of Dorothy, though strange had been by no means impossible and if true would have completely accounted for the formation of the tornado between the two thunder storms which were the only evidence against it.

The apparent evidence of Dorothy's entirely altered the complexion of the case. The Professor had sat silent and composed during the hearing. His countenance had evinced no surprise or emotion when Dorothy gave her statement. He had indeed upon thinking the matter over come to the conclusion that the tornado had really formed from that cause, therefore her statement was no surprise to him.

A slight shade had passed over his face when Dorothy had entered the witness box glancing

at the Scientist
Reuben as she gave
her opinion. The Professor

About Christmas

Snow is bright and flakes are nice
when it is Christmas I sing silent night,
and when I sing I sing with joy, I
sing Christmas jays, on Christmas night.

By Norma Pitts

saw that Reuben looked greatly moved and annoyed, and looked questioningly at her. As before at the conclusion of the evidence of the witness or of each witness rather, the professor had been asked if he had anything to put. He hesitated for a moment and then as before replied in the very negative.

Again the magistrates, ^{Scientist} ^{Chicago Public Schools} conducted together.

Professor Muller we shall be obliged if you will enter the witness box again. "In your former argument with the little girl Dorothy you said nothing in any way relating to her statement except disbelieving it, but now it seems you had a previous acquaintance with it."

3606 Will you tell the meeting
what it is?
the professor said "on this matter
comes up after all." Dorothy is
perfectly right. Dorothy is a very, very
intelligent child, and can give every
satisfaction to an argument. My audience
had drawn a sketch of her statements
and neither I or he can contest it.
It is easy to distinguish the pictures
of the sketch.

It actually fits with the statement
she gave, at the time during our
argument about this I certainly did
suspect that she and Angelina
had been mistaken and in spite
of what they said as they seemed
to be unable to account for their
opinion I disbelieved them, I wish
to say publicly after I made
this sketch afterwards that I have
deeply regretted having done
so ever since and I consider I
acted hastily and wrongly in
doing so. Here Mr. Magistrate
in the sketch I made. This proves
they both have me licked.
Considering their strong argument
with me at the time I ought not
to have assumed whether they are

right or wrong without 76.0?
more positive evidence against
these statements. I am
I had before me.

Norma Dietrich Room 125 - Grad
Arnold V. D. C. Nov 27, 1963

Question

- I may also say that I am school -
1. Do you like science in school? teacher
Yes. I like science in school because it is the
most subject I like has given the highest
 2. Do you like math to? character of full
Yes, I like it. But when I get mad I don't
like it so much. truthfulness means as
 3. Do you like Social Studies? he has
Yes, I like Social Studies because it is my
very subject know the little girls.
 4. How do you learn your spelling?
I learn my spelling in part at school,
and some like English?
since they first went to school.
Then present Teachers are also I believe
Subtract $10 - 7 = 3$
 2. What is the ovary? The female
part of a plant or animal or
human ready to testify to their
excellent conduct during their years
of study.
I suppose Professor Mullens
the senior magistrate said looking
over the sketch, you have not

3608. at any time since the argument you had with them obtained any actual evidence beside this sketch which would show that they might be mistaken after all in your first view and that your subsequent change of opinion was due solely to your general view of their characteristic study so far as you know it?"

"But is so," the professor assented and no further question being asked he resumed his seat and smiled at the two little girls. The evidence of his sketch had caused surprise and some little amusement in this meeting hall. I too had been against their first statements.

It was now clear that there had been a strong difference of opinion between him, I and the little girls, on the subject and that while Dorothy and Angelina had something of their opinion about it, the professor and I had been strongly impressed against their statement. After some consultation the magistrate said!

The case is won on this subject through further evidence.

may yet be forthcoming 3609
but I may say that under
the present circumstances of the
case we shall feel obliged
~~to send this~~ ~~to send this~~

Small sketch for Nov 15 1962
trial to the film report opposite room
of the investigators. The children
question account of the proceedings of

1. What ~~do you like~~ ~~about the film?~~
~~The about this film is how they use it~~

~~These two great opposing forces are the things~~
these two currents of opposing wind
between the two storms from the
time they met there may be
true, but so far it is entirely
unsupported.

On the other hand we have the evidence of the two currents of conflicting winds they mentioned admitted to meet violently between the storms being found according to the sketch to collide on the center of the clearing between them. We have the further important fact that the two storms moved the same speed, and caught sight between the two storms the tornado evidently was forced to go straight ahead."

3610

"Will it be of any use my calling evidence as to the main character of the cloud head" the professor asked "No" the magistrate said. Evidence of that kind will be useful in the progress of the ~~bad~~ discussion when the matter will be thoroughly sifted. We only have to decide by your sketch that there is proving face face evidence connecting with the sketch and of that there is no doubt at all."

Public opinion before the meeting ran high on the subject of the cloud head and the cause of its formation. Lots of people were strongly in his ~~favor~~ the favor about it. It was very unusual among everybody and they pointed out that conflicting winds between the two storms must have been concerned in the business that never before was a tornado seen between two storms, or was likely to any connection with them.

Was it possible that the atmosphere of the east and west portion of the storm turning radical been the real cause, upon the other

hand opinion in general 3611 ran strongly against the most extraordinary phenomenon and other were.

Norma Riebs
Arnold M. H.C.

current of wind had been really

Room 105 - Strake 6.
Nov 4, 1968

How to Plan the steps of the story

- declared utterly improbable, and a
1. Think of an open that will capture the reader's interest in the characters and what they ~~are doing~~ tornado which had run wild.
2. Make an event lead to the next.
3. Use conversation to help develop the story.
4. Plan a turning point at which something happens that makes the characters react in an unexpected way.
5. End the story promptly after the action is over. Like one would be likely to wipe out all its path - yet in the court now the professor's declaration of his subsequent opinion that he acted hastily in his argument with the little girls so far little weight was attached to it until the sketch would prove it.

3412 Everyone knew that the professor was a well learned man and as he acknowledged himself that outside of the sketch he had obtained no evidence which would satisfy him that he acted very wrongly in the argument with the little girls, and it was clearly the sketch he made that he had changed his mind on this very subject.

The professor was again to be questioned and occasioned a good deal of interest, partly owing to the position of the Professor, partly to the nature of the argument set up, as to which opinion was a good deal divided. The evidence for the sketch was questioned. The professor was closely questioned by myself this time as to the proof of his sketch as this was considered to show a particular anomaly on the cause of the winter farming between the two storms, he again repeated his conviction by showing his sketch.

"But what reason have you.

Norma Patin
Arnold N.Y.C.

Room 103 - Grade 6
Feb 1, 1968

This Week Story

Two characters are caught in a sudden downpour. The only shelters within miles is a house which one of them believes is haunted. One of them said that we can go haunting But the other one said that we should go in the house. But he said that he wanted to go. The other one said go on. I will stay here. he answered. But then he want and the other one stay alone in the house. He started to go looking for him. But he didn't find him. A man come looking for his dog but he saw the boy in the house. he said Hello But the man just stay there. he said Hello again But the man stay there looking at him. Then the man said went are you doing here. he said! the Boy said he was looking for his friend in the house. He said that this house was haunting and the Boy said to who stay here! a woman and her two dog and cat. But how did the other one stay here. he said a heard attack; you know about the

3613 Professor Milon? asked
blandly for changing your opinion
on the subject

log they run away that
way I am looking for it and
about the cat went happening

I knew this was a question the pro-
fessor could not answer satisfactorily
and was a particularly irritating one
because it had been often triumph-
antly asked by the little girls
themselves.

"I just now can't really give you
particular reason," he said, "except
long and on reflection the personal
character of the cloud and
antecedents convinced me that without
those two currents meeting between
the storms, the cloud could not
have done such an act."

"In fact," I said naively, "you
were influenced by your sketch
Professor in thus laying aside
a question connection, which the
facts had at the time forced
upon you."

"I don't look upon it in that light,"
the professor replied shortly.

"I consider that in the 3614
first instance I acted hastily
and unwisely and on consideration

Norma Petri
Anselm U. & C.

Room 105-6
Sept 10, 1908.

"I am afraid Professor" I said "that

Number	1. plus
meaning	x2. minus
addition	3. product
subtraction	x4. quotient
whole	x5. denominator
fraction	6. sums
x multiplication	x7. different

Direction I saw that I had done
x multiply so."

x master "I am afraid Professor" I
said "that you will not
prombly persuade the members of
x subtract this meeting to agree
x dismore with you? I have one more
question to ask you, for
Divid indeed your evidence
graph is as I think the members
percent of this meeting will
mumuration agree altogether in
temthe favor of the cause of
point the forming of the head,
sumdore and its consequences. In
the first place was the head.

3615 formation also observed by
you?"
"Not that I know of" the pro-
fessor replied. Certainly in the course
of my duties I was never here in
this location at the time. Indeed it
was very seldom that I ever came
down to this part of Illinois."

"It would therefore appear better
that you had not ~~passing~~ passing
a time of passing or possessing
any knowledge as to the internal
arrangements of the head forma-
tion beyond that possessed by the
two strangely acting currents."

"None whatever" the professor
replied.

"Now as that unfortunate affair
of the tongue and devastating Johnson-
town, your opinion as to the cause
of the twister forming in that
matter is not a recent one or
not the outcome of its terrible
conduct and character?"

"Not at all" the professor said.
I changed my opinion in the
favor of the little girls positive
matter very shortly indeed
after the argument with them."

3616

"Within a few days I think I may
say?" I asked.

Within a few hours here after
the argument the professor replied.
"The story of the little girls to
me that they believed two conflict-
ing currents between the storm
was caused by these winds rushing
around in different directions
around the two storm and then
meeting violently between them
caused the cloud head to form
to turn into an exceedingly
bad character, and that struck me
as being very much more and
more probable that something much
more had to do with the forma-
tion of the head too."

Dorothy was next called.
Her evidence as to the cause of the
forming of the cloud head was a
mere repetition of that given by
her before. I too was to question
her about the two currents.

"I would rather say nothing
about it any more" Dorothy
said. "It is a matter which has
been productive of much sorrow."

3617 Reuben gave to me, and I would rather say nothing more about it."

"But you must Dorothy" the professor said sharply "You are here at this meeting to answer any question by Mr Darger which may enable the members of this leg meeting to form an opinion on this mysterious and very freak phenomenon"

"I'm sorry to press you Dorothy," I continued "but I must really do you. You at first took a different opinion of the Professor?"

"My opinion was my own and at first he wouldn't believe me. The professor told me he suspected my theories wrong. I thought my reasons sufficient and had no cause for changing my own opinion."

After this testimony had been given Scientist Reuben pointed out that to his opinion there was in fact no evidence whatever connecting the two currents with the formation of the freak cloud head, beyond the discovery

3618 of its forming from the rear of the first thunderstorm and that as to this trumpet story of its being formed by the conflicting currents meeting between the storms



he regarded it as altogether too contemptible. When two conflicting currents meant to form something like this it would do so in order to create a disturbance between the two storms and not from any spite against them.

Had the currents had any cause for this ridiculous charge against them, they would have not have allowed themselves to meet between the two thunderstorms, but would probably have vented their spite in the usual fashion, by connecting

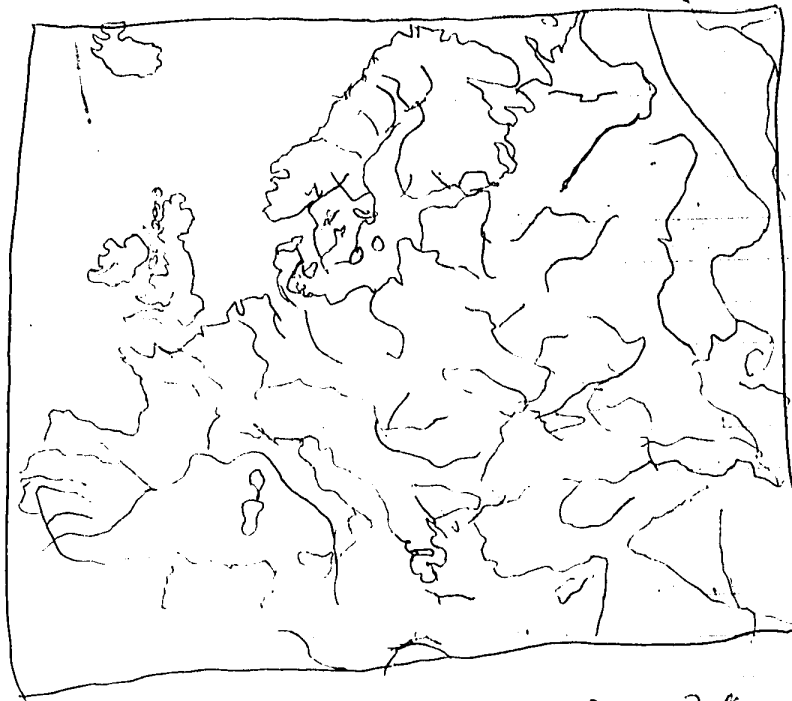
3619 with the two storms, but so far as I can see

there is no foundation for the charge brought against the two currents and we already had heard the Professor profess that he regretted suspecting he had suspected the currents, until by his sketch he claimed the currents guilty. I don't believe him.

I believe them to be innocent. But even had it proved true, proved up to the hilt that the current had formed this awful horn, we should still hold it as wholly unconnected with the present matter if it had caused the formation of the freak cloud head what then?

I therefore fellow members let's put this trumped up affair altogether out of our minds on the double ground that in the first place the currents did not meet between the two storms and that had they done so it would have had nothing whatever to do with the present affair. "Aw Blaloney" said Fred.

"Why gentlemen" Reuben 3620 said "it is an insult to your understanding to ask you to Norma Piste credit that Arnold UEC those two January 21, 1969 opposing currents whose character which I shall presently prove to you by unimpeachable evidence was of the highest kind and



you say Blaloney. Yet I'll say again it is an insult to your understanding to ask you to credit that these two currents of

wind whose character which I shall presently prove to you by my unimpeachable evidence is of the highest kind has for forty minutes cherished such malice against the two storms that they had become the consort of this dangerous storm has rendered itself in honor and rendered the tornado into transportation across four or five states for the purpose merely of spitting old Mother Nature.

Such a contention would be absolutely absurd I must beg you to dismiss it altogether from your mind and approach it from a different standpoint altogether I invented of this extraordinary business the matter is a most simple one.

I am convinced gentlemen of this important meeting that after hearing this evidence you will agree with me that only the two currents of wind is perfectly innocent.

Norma Miller
Amelia M. M. C.

R.W.

English

Room 103 - Blvd 6
Feb 13, 1969

Yesterday on Feb 12, 1969 I clean up the house and I went down stair and I was talking to my friend I had some fun. we went to watch it. then after I watched it I went up stair. I made an compass to see my brother help me with it. That was my idea yesterday

The end

of the change but that it is an all used phenomena, and that it is a matter of surprise that we members of this meeting should have committed the two currents of wind far trial when the only shade of evidence against them is what these two little explained. Of other evidence there is not one jot or tittle no

3623 a no attempt has been made to prove that the two currents of wind consorted between and with the two storms, no attempt had been made to show any connection whatever between them and the freak cloud head. I shall leave the case in your hands gentlemen of the meeting with an absolute confidence that you will without a moment's hesitation find a verdict proclaiming the innocence of the two air currents and leave them without a stain upon their characters."

"Aw balaoney" came again "What about the professor's sketch". Others also threw discredit upon Reuben's narrative which they said was unsupported in any material particular. That the currents met together between the two storms was likely enough.

"My friend, my learned friend has told you to dismiss from your mind the question about the currents forming the freak cloud head but it is impossible for us to do so. You have heard that by the professor's

sketch that the evidence was so strong that they 3624 cannot be disputed. It is true that the Professor afterwards Norma Petri changed his Room 108 - Slide Arnold W. C. moved on the Feb 20, 1969

Local Studies

- subject but after the evidence
1. Where did the name Britain come from? which others have given The British Isles are the sons of England of the nature of those
 2. Why do the names of some English cities end in -ester, -chester, or -caster? because their names end in -chester, -ester, or -caster. Currents you will
 3. Who was William Conger?

We led his Norman army on to victory against the English. readily understand that no great stress can be laid upon this.

The matter so far from being trivial as my friend represents it is highly important in as much as here we find that again the currents have gone crazy between the storms

Now will therefore see the extreme variations of the wind. I am perfectly ready

3625 to admit that the evidence is of a wholly circumstantial nature but from the nature of this case it is necessary that this should be had any one been able to see this personally it is probable that much more evidence would be forthcoming.

It is however for you to weigh the probabilities of the case. You have to consider whether the theory which I have laid before you as to the connection of the two currents with this affair, or this wild story of which he tells you is the most probable. Professor Muleson and the two little girls are right and may solve the problem."

"But it won't solve the mystery of the head" declared another member. And say from my cyclone I was able to look up inside that funnel as it passed over head. I had looked up in I immediately had looked up into it and saw overhead a small circle of some sort of flapping cloud, round and round where

edge, the edging of cloud
see was something
reveling with the most extreme
velocity, I've ever seen.

Norma Bates I was able to
Arnold M. E.

23626
R com 108 - 1966
Feb 17, 1969

Spelling list

1. blanket pg 81
2. protection pg 101
3. protest pg 100
4. swept pg 108
5. judgment pg 94
6. judge pg 94
7. suddenly pg 88
8. surround pg 102
9. angel pg 79
10. cabbage pg 82
11. pulch pg 101
12. banner pg 85
13. common pg 84
14. grammar pg 81
15. attic pg 80
16. tablet pg 108
17. timber pg 110
18. sweep pg 88

look up into it for a minute and its inside acted and looked like a tremendous wide whirlpool. It had not come down to the ground then and soon passed on. To save my life I can't describe the awful sound it made, you don't mean it. Professor said I mother. You can't that any of here can solve the mystery of that crazy cloud head, that dreadful head. Why we are always hearing what its tongue did and you know how many were killed as far as it traveled."

"But I look upon it as the greatest honor Dorothy for it too would be very important for the

3627 Weather Bureau and the press all over the country, and you see there will be capital chances of our distinguishing ourselves by solving this strange phenomena"

"And capital chances of being defeated" Angeline said in a vexed tone "I call it too bad for Professor"

But my dear little girl we need to solve the phenomena Besides you know we have been getting into hot water over that mystery The press in La Salle and other towns have been saying very severe things about our incompetence to solve the mystery of the Phenomena, and I was obliged to choose some method which will give satisfaction and you will agree with me that the solving of the mystery will do that"

"Of many of them well" Angeline agreed "I shouldn't be alive now if I hadn't escaped with Dorothy into the basement of the Angel Guardian Orphanage in time, but for that reason you ought not try to solve a mystery that seems utterly impossible to me solved"

"But we wish to give ourselves an opportunity to distinguish our

3628
ourselves for the press and the National Weather department We want to get onto the mystery and I want to push it but you see we can't promote ourselves over the mystery unless we do something a little out of the way"

Well we don't like it Professor I tell you frankly. I always thought something was wrong there I can't see why so many people are so fond of trying to solve my stories that seem impossible when you could choose something else. Besides I don't believe any one could solve the mystery of that freak head."

"But it is not so difficult or impossible, Angeline, as a good many have found in solving other mysteries, and after all trying to solve the mystery we don't have to do anything that's dangerous. And besides you two little girls solved the mystery of what caused the tornado to form between the two thunderstorms and we were not prepared for it."

"Yes" declared Dorothy.

2630 "But has nothing to do with the freak head"
"Well I do hope professor" said Angelina "if you do to the trouble of trying to solve this mystery you accomplish a wonderful achievement and be appreciated"

"Others are going to go at this too girls. You know if we have taken care and will not be rash on this matter we will come out well well on this freak head business. I am sure we will win out in the end"

"Yes but it is a big and strong mystery" both little girls said at once. "But what good is trying to accomplish the mystery of the freak head. The meeting of the winds together between the storms is maybe responsible for the tornado between the two storms but could have nothing to do with that freak head on the edge of the storm cloud"

"Why girls you two are not generally the professor said lightly" but for once you seem to be determined to do your best to frighten us out of trying to solve that thing"

Norma Foster
4 small U.S.C.

Science

Norma's Book
Feb. 12, 1969

1. You can turn a dial and pick music and voices out of empty space.
2. You can be on top of a mountain, or deep in a jungle or on a ship at sea, or even far away from the earth in a spaceship, and still be in touch with the rest of the world by radio.
3. Many things about radio are still a mystery even to scientists.
4. In some ways a radio and a telephone are alike.
5. But there are no wires that join a radio transmitting station to your receiver.
6. The telephone could be changed into a radio.
7. But it would work in almost the same way as a good radio.
8. This is how it could be done. We snap the two wires across the middle.
9. Then we join the "hot" ends like this to make two loops or wires.
10. Now there is no connection between the

3631 "The little girls laughed
"no we dont want to frighten
you men out of it perhaps?
only want to make you careful
of not making a blunder at it."

"get there is some possible something
passing between the two boys of mine
12.

"We will be as careful as we can"
girls. I will warrant if we do blunder
our mystery solvers will sniff
it out some how. Some of our scientists
have the nose of hounds. They have
been most useful to us and are
invaluable at this meeting."

Another man said

"This is a very unusual investigation in
which the head is concerned when
it was formed. but it is a great
gratification if the time comes to
have this mystery cleared up at
last. The tongue from the mouth
of the head is accused more than
the head of destruction des-
troying forty cities and towns
and many farms and bridges
and railway lines along its
course, and also the most
wholesale killer of children

Name

Room 105-b

2, 19, 69

14 Union Street

Phoenix Arizona 85026

July 12, 19-

Norma Rietz

Arnold U. Rietz

Dear Phil

Mother, Dad, and I are spending a
few days in Grand Canyon National
Park. Then we return to Uncle Ted's house
in Phoenix.

We took a bus tour to the
Grand Canyon. As we looked down
we could see the Colorado River
which took millions of years to
cut through the rock that now
form the steep sides of the Canyon.

3632 that no other disaster has produced. The imputation will rest upon this "tongue" for all time. I thought there was something queer about the head because I too observed it and I knew there was something wrong and yet I could not prove it, but it has now made out of itself the most disastrous tornado on all record, and confirming what immeasurable strength it surely had, but it defects in."

"In what way?" asked the professor.

"In our attempt to solve this strange mystery."

Some one said almost joking "Couldn't some body get into the head and solve the mystery?"

"Who would ever do that there'd be nothing left of him" was the answer. "Despite its shape the head might have been a part of the main whirl though of course no one can prove it."

Oh I will be so glad when this mystery is solved. Dorothy exclaimed. "You know Professor that I am sure it was a strange and

useful phenomena for the tongue to become such a 3632 honor. But I know every one here longs for the solving of the mystery and for it to be passed to the whole world. What will you do Professor if the mystery ever will be solved to make it public?"

"I shall send a copy of the solving of the mystery and its confirmation properly attested to the main Weather Department at Washington D.C. so the chief weather men staff will reconstruct it and other copies to the principal news paper concerns in all the biggest cities which are published there daily. It is very curious" he went on that you two little girls knew right hand off the cause of the forming of the tornado between the two storms."

"So far as I could see" said another man. "What I should have recalled those past recollections while so far as I could see every thing that happened after its formation, its career of havoc and the blood and loss it had shed can never more

3633 "be forgotten"

There was one question which myself had to ask with regard to the event of the head why it was that no one within full view of the phenomena and not on the danger zone had been so out with a camera to take pictures of the freakish out fit and the tongue falling to the ground. They then learned that one man by the name of Thorne Smithson did take the picture but instead of giving it over to the press at 20 Hall caught some train at Moline, when to Chicago and gave it to the Chicago Tribune, though publishing it refuse to relinquish the original to other paper concerns. When I spoke of it one of the scientists said:

"Oh, bosh what difference can that make?"

"It seems to me Angelus said that it makes a very great difference. What Smithson did to my opinion was very illegal indeed. The nerve of him. Unless we could get a copy of that phenomena our hopes to solve the mystery

Norma Pictor
Arnold W.C.

Room 105 - Hall 6
January 21, 1969

- Reading -

1. The importance of a good appearance.
In the following pages you will read about some of the ways in which your personal appearance affects you as well as the people around you.
2. Your appearance and the way you act.
Have you ever been embarrassed by the way you looked?
You may have felt that you weren't dressed properly.
3. What is Poise?
Whom I have introduced, poor, the new boy, to his friend, Big, he was showing social poise in that situation.
4. The development of poise.
As you may recall, everyone has his own rate of physical growth. There can also be much variation in height.

634 is lost you know professor
we never thought of anyone taking
such a picture therefore for doing
that we don't think well of him and
if he was found back in La Salle
he should be put under arrest.

That negative should have been
turned over to the news press in
La Salle, and its now very awkward
now finding it was submitted to
the Tribune in Chicago, especially as
La Salle laid him under an obligation
to it do think so Professor?

I do not pretend to know anything
about such matters Angelina "the
professor said bluntly "and I shouldn't
have thought it could make any
difference to all of us what the man
did or its his own camera and
negative.

I can only say that the camera
and the negative is his own property
so what can we do about it if he
brings the negative to the Tribune
in Chicago. It is not illegal to
my idea. The mayor of La
Salle is one of his most inti-
mate friends that he is in
every respect a good fellow,
and he himself is under a life

long obligation to him. 3635-
for he had at the time saved
the life of the Mayors daughter out
of the path of that most vicious
monster and was seriously injured.

The La Salle Press refused to accept
the negative as publishing it would
put a speck of mud on every body.

More than that I did not inquire
it was nothing to me whether
he gave up the negative to the
press in La Salle or Chicago or any
where else."

Angelina colored hotly at the implied
gentle reproach of the Professor's words
she had some prejudices against
Smithson from the reason of
bringing the negative to Chicago
instead of placing the camera shot
with the news paper from in La
Salle where she believed it rightly
belonged and she had not been
long enough in any different
city except La Salle and was
not accustomed to the changes
of position where are there so
frequent and besides La Salle
was her home town."

"You do not understand Prof-
essor" she said prettily. "It was

3637 or not only what he did to with the negative, but there were other circumstances and I firmly believe and won't give up on the very subject that that negative should have been surrendered to the press at So-Salle than old Chicago."

"Oh Angelina" Dorothy broke out "how can you speak of such thing although So-Salle is my home town also Here we are at present our owing more to solving the mystery of that freak head, than the camera shot, and you are going now to damage the efforts on the strange mystery by making up that miserable old story."

We have tribune pictures of that negative right here at this meeting and they're not doing us a world of good.

"Professor" she said impulsively. "Mr. Smithson is one of the most just as well as one of the most kind of men I had the highest opinion of our Mayor! Believe me, there was nothing in the circumstances to which Angelina alludes which could cast the slightest slur upon his character."

Norma Ruth
Arnold N.Y.C.

Room 105-8

April 17, 1969

Reading

G	L	A	S	S	B	S	F
B	L	O	W	B	R	I	L
A	R	O	W	I	N	G	
K	R	I	N	G			

E

1. small stream of water coming from the earth spring
2. to use oars to move a boat Row
3. what you did when you looked at something
4. a hard hit with the fist blow
5. what you use to drink from glass
6. to practice a way of doing something over and over. saw Drill
7. the sound a bell makes. ring
8. what you usually do when you trip over something Back fall
9. the outside part of a tree Bark

3638 just because he brought
brought the negative to Chicago
instead of submitting it to the
main Press at La Salle. Besides
he did, and they did not at all
accept it. "Why not submit it to the
Press in Chicago then?"

"I feel certain of that my dear
little young lady" the Professor said
"even without your assurance Angeline
is still shaken by the events of that
horrible freak head and no wonder
and I am quite sure that when she
thinks this matter over she will see
that whatever her preconceived
ideas may be, it would be
most ungrateful and very, very
ungenerous to breathe a single
word in disparagement of Mr
Smithson."

For a time yet Angeline would
not give in she said now how-
ever that her reflections were not
well pleased

"Maybe after all" she said kind
of stiffly "the Professor's re-
proof was well deserved and
I acted ungratefully and very
ungenerously. As a rule I am by
no means of an unkind dis-

position but ~~not~~ ^{was} 3639
I am my town's only resident with
my parents and I would not turn
against my home town for
nothing anything or Room 105 - Hall 6
nobody. The question of Mr
Smithson is now one which is
causing more serious dissension
between you Professor th. and me
than any I ever remember. I've taken
my own view of the case while Dorothy
agreed with you and although the
subject is not being dropped by
any mutual consent, and I won't
give in to the argument under
any condition or at any cost it is
being a very sore one and at the
sight of Mr Smithson the very
remembrance of the old unpleasant-
ness has caused me to play a
part which I cannot but feel ~~was~~
mean and unworthy.

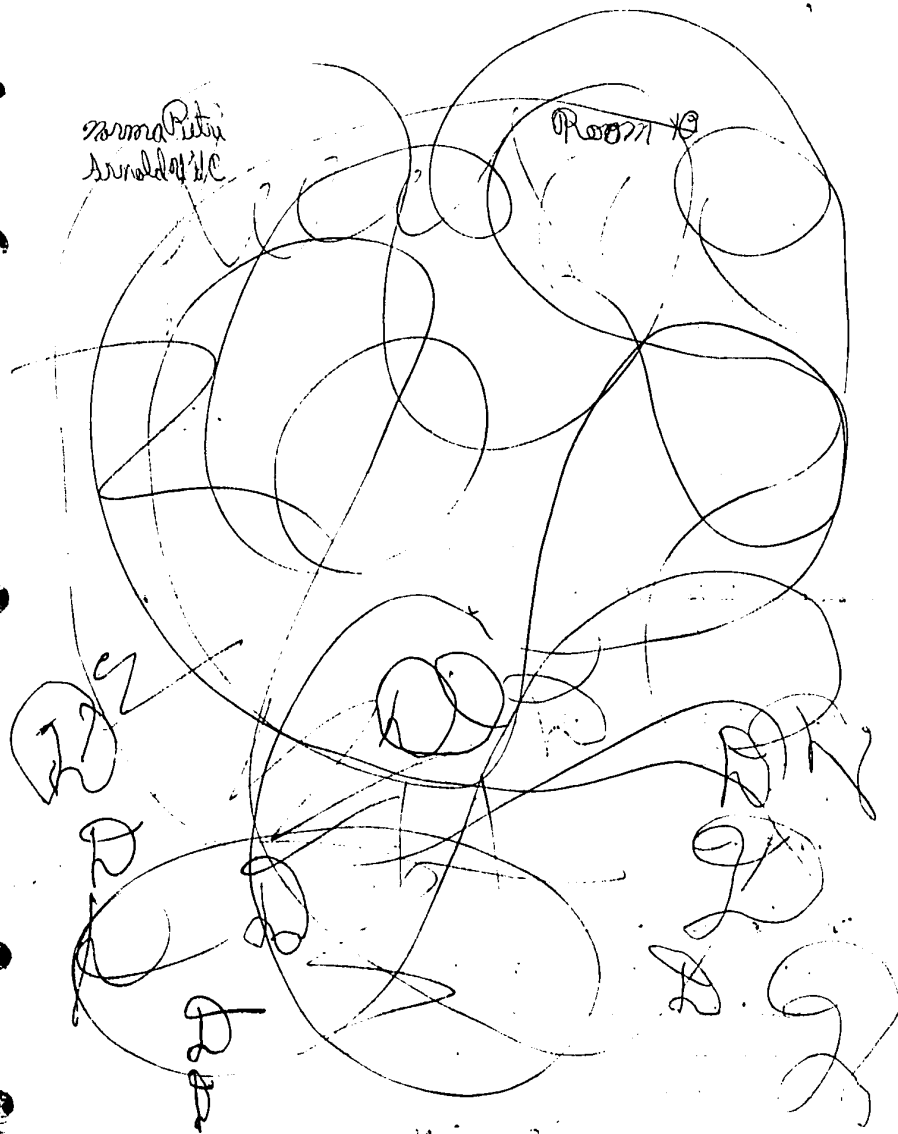
But still suppose the Press at
La Salle did refuse the negative.
after all? Did he have to take
it to old Chicago. Why not Molino
or Gurney? I can't help feeling
angry him, angry at the press
at La Salle with the Mayor
and with the Chicago Tribune.

364 "Well Professor said Angelina 'I
may have to and will thank
you for what you have already
said to me. You are right and I
am wrong. I was ungrateful and
ungenerous. I can only say that it
is a very sore subject, and that in
my surprise I thought of the
negative which I believe and still
believe should have been submitted
to the Press at La Salle.

But yet believe me nevertheless
I am very sorry for what I said."
"That is quite enough Angelina" the
professor said heartily. "I'm very
glad you have said what you have."
I was quite sure that you would
upon reflection feel that whatever
the old grievance might have been
against Smithsonian for what he
did, it cannot weigh an instant
against what might have been
the result. Let us say no more
on the subject you were shaken
and not yourself, and I was
wrong in taking you up so
sharply under the circumstances.
We have from the Tribune sent
to La Salle copies of the
photos from the negative and.

Anna Rita
Arnold of U.C.

Room 10



3641 I have some of them in
our possession at this meeting
but they do no good.
Dorothy said nothing, but her
face showed that she was greatly
pleased at her companion's change of
tone.

It was now noon time for lunch
or dinner so I and the meeting
council went off to dine at the hotel
and almost all the rest trooped out.

At one P.M. all returned, the
seats opened to the members were
filled. Several members of the
Mayon department dropped in
and then I came with the little
girls and took our seat.

"What do you think professor"
said Reuben. "One of our members
said during the meal that if we
went abroad out to Australia we might
not solve the mystery of the
Freak head. We talked against
his idea till I am almost hoarse
but its no good. I am hope you
will persuade Thomas I hope
that we yet cant give it up.
A mad idea he calls it saying
its impossible. He says he
wants us all to give up this

some sister
Sunderland

7
Competition

3642
Room 105 - Arch 6
Feb 18, 1969

If I get lost I won't get panick. Because
I would climb a tree and look around
to see if I can find a car passing
by. Then I will come down
mad idea."

I will have to hear what he says
first Reuben. Tom Thorne has generally
a good deal to say for his side of
the question and I must hear his
reasons before I can argue against them.
Now Mr Thorne what have you to say
for yourself?"

"I made up my mind while we
at dinner." Thorne replied "and I
thought it over. These crazy mysteries
will stick to a man all his life."

The first appearance of the freak
head nearly got everything
messed up now and if a small
matter like that did everyone so
much harm what did the twister
from it do? If it had been merely

3643 a freak cloud formation it
would have been different but as
it is I believe mine people out of
them thinks it cant be solved and
I am convinced that eleven others
were eleven to faintly against the
mystery being solved though there
is one who is more obstinate than
they are though they wont give in
and it is Jacob Priestly the alderman of
this district who is holding out believing
it can be solved.

At any rate a great many people
think the mystery of that freak
head phenomena cannot be solved
unless something turns up to prove
it can be done. My brother says
we might settle the question some
way but how when the symptoms
of the head is not known but
still I should never have faith
in solving it. You say y-

we have photos of that head in
the Tribune but will that tell
the story or solve the mystery
and keep on its track? I dont
think we ought to bother about
it further. I have been to Mr. Ben-
fold and he who saw the freak
cloud also says if were are

after all determined to go 3644
on working on the mystery

Ana Delia Gonzal
arnold U.G.C.

Room 105-6
Feb 26/1968

he will come
to this meet Social Studies wing
this Page 246-249

afternoon and help us. But we
must have those photographs.
He says he has no doubts we
after all may find the mystery.
If he does hes a much better
scientist than I am. I am a pretty
good workman at solving many
kinds of mysterious phenomena
now at my own craft and yet if
I cant solve the mysterious freak
head who can.

Yet I'm stubborn too and wont
turn my hand to something
else. My only trouble is about
my brother at this meeting
here I want him to go along
with me in my argument I
could make things plain for
him but he wont have it.

"Never said John Thomas" Your
idea is all wrong. I've always
solved the most difficult

3645 mysteries of all, all my days and I will strive to solve this one if I die here for it. Those who cant solve this mystery must be feeble minded. This is why we are here that's what we came here for Tom. I hope we will soon be able to write the So. Falls Press and tell the news that we have solved this mystery and then we will be famous. I'm not going to tramp sixteen blocks to this meeting for nothing and settle down for something we don't solve. That is out lands. I can not give up Mr. Professor its cruel of you to ask."

The professor was silent for a moment. I my self and so did all the rest of us know that Tom Thorne's mind was made up very firmly and we knew that we could not deny the force of his reasoning. It was true that very many people still considered the mystery could never be solved. It was probably true that the newspaper photos of the freak head would be useless. and ruin our hopes. It did seem that the best thing

we all should all do was 3646 to abandon the attempt to solve the mystery.

"I was the one who spoke. To solve or try to solve this great mystery is not not so hard on as bad as you fancy. Mr Tom Thorne." I said at last. People of the most learned kind do have troubles with solving all kinds of phenomena mysteries, but in other ways we could have no more trouble with this mystery than they have with theirs. Besides every minute our success will be increasing if we keep at it, if we make no effort at it it will be diminishing.

To study this problem is not so deadfully difficult as it seems. And though I do not think that if it does fail then it is not our fault. But I think when the time comes you will change your mind about it. As to your brother John there's a good deal of force to what he says, and untill the mystery is solved our story might follow it. And I have no doubt we could do well with the mystery here.

3647 as well as any where else.
We are all good scientists
more or less for our age and as
your brother says can turn his
hand to solve any mystery. My-
steries is never scarce anywhere and
as he has got his head screwed on
the right way I have no doubt
that he will fall on his feet
fast."

Is yet this freak head phenomena
puzzles us all. The Professor said "It
is certainly an altogether ex-
ceptionally strongly and mysteriously
spoken about for its condition of
honour but we can't quite make
it out I think we do a lot of
talking about it but do nothing."

I certainly love to solve this strange
mystery if possible but I own that
so far we cannot make it out
perhaps I shall learn something
about it before this meeting
is over and then in that case

I will tell all I know. According
to this photo in the newspaper
the freak head did not form
where the two currents met in
the center between the two big
thunderstorms. It formed in the
rear of the first thunderstorm."

Norma Pieth
Arnold W. G.C.
Science

Room 105. 6
Nov 26, 1968

1. Reproduction is the means by which
a living thing produces new individuals
like itself.
2. Asexual reproduction occurs a parent
cell divides to form daughter cell.
3. Sexual reproduction is accomplished by the
union of a male reproduction cell (sperm
with a female reproduction cell (ovum or
egg). The offspring combines characteristics
of both father and mother yet is unique
and different from either.
4. When a sperm cell penetrates and
combines its (males) with an egg cell
the egg cell has been fertilized. A
new life has begun.
5. Many animals mate only during
certain season of the year. During
this period we say the female is in
heat. Animals know instinctively
when to mate. Human mother
and father may mate whenever they
only if a sperm and an egg cell
unite.

3648 There is already something
mysterious about both of them
and another man by the name
of Roy Dugan. "I can see where it took
form. And what a head. The eye of
the whole rear of the storm. Yet I guess
the winds meeting in the center
between the storms had nothing to
do with it."

Charlie Wilson tells me there will
be some one who can solve this."

"My big professor" said Rueben "any one
with a half eye could see
that."

"Who is likely to discover the mystery
and when?"

Most likely any one of us - at least
in my opinion. We can see that the
rear of the thunderstorm formed into
that freak head and a large one
it is at that. But there is no way
of saying who will solve it. I
always thought things were going too
difficult to start. Now we are going
to see what this kind of mystery
is. Rueben says thought the shape
of the cloud head was much
different than this."

"It is a much larger head
than I thought and what a tongue

Marina Biter
Arnold U.S.C.

Room 108 - Hall 6
Nov 26, 1968

Life in Rice China

Rice China is in the southeast. It occupies
about 30% of the land area.

About 350 million people live here.

Much of the land is hilly and mountainous.
The valleys and terraced hillside are used for
farming.

Rice China is green most of the year. It has a
heavy rainfall and a long growing season.
Most of the rice fields are irrigated.

The growing season lasts from 9 to 12 months.
Often two or three crops can be grown annually.
Rice is the chief crop. It is the main source
of every meal.

Many dialects are spoken in Rice China.
People from different parts of the region
cannot understand each other.

River and canal boats are common means of
transportation.

Most of the Chinese in America come from Rice
China, especially from the region around Canton.

3649 Was it likely to have been
the formation of the tornado
further on in the head?
"The formation? the professor repeated.
"carefully. Why certainly. The tongue
has a freakish shape in the photo here
and there is as much difference be-
tween the tongue and the open mouth
as there is between a new born babe
and me."

"It's funny. Smithsonian didn't take a
photograph of the tongue coming down.
Was it a long funnel generally?"
"Long? Why it's the longest tornado
funnel ever known. There isn't one
measured length to them I want
to know. I wondered sometimes to my
self where all the wind comes
from and where it goes to while
it works round and round much
faster than any big electric
motor."

"But does a tornado work round
and round faster than any electric
motor Professor?"

"Oh the center of it which is
the funnel. Why Chamberlain only
God alone really knows how
fast they whirl but that is in
the center. The outward edge

ADY

3650

Ana Delia Gonzales
Arnold U.C.C.

Room 1056
Feb 21, 1968

Spelling.

of the tornado appears to churn
far outward, and yet blow straight
appearing all the same time in
the same quarter, and what makes
it worse the tornado is said to have
a ascending current and the down
ward one. If the downward current
is much cooler than the up-
rising current that is those of the
Weather department declare acts
as a sort of controller."

"What difference does that
make Professor?"

"It don't make no difference
as long as all go straight and
fast and the downward current is
not overcooled. I have heard of
course of the rising current being
too swift, and the downward current
being too slow and not very
cool but that's only when the
funnel is too long. If the down-
ward current is held up by
some unknown cause, then the

3657 tornado: having no controller
runs amuck and becomes ex-
ceedingly dangerous. A tornado is
like a person it can get desperate and
is ready to play hell on the off
chance of getting more violent than
they usually do.

So far this here tongue tornado
had no controller at all. Usually also
a tornado is kept liberal with a
controller and though yet dangerous
and destructive does not travel
far. The controller seems a good
portion as long as its current is not
cold and there is no knocking the
center about needless and no
there is no serious trouble as long
as things go square but when things
go wrong or the funnel is too
long to mind its controller and
it runs amuck on anything of
that kind then there is well nigh
to be trouble.

The tornado seizes its full
opportunity and it aint scarce in
a tornado a nature nature
for it not to take it and
then there aint no saying
what will happen.

Well why what a croaker

you are Professor. I didnt 365'2
expect that from you"
but I aint no croaker Reuben
what I know. I've seen what this
"tongue" did that I'm telling you of
and I dont want to see anything
like that again.

"I am aint saying, or I expect
any such thing will happen
again, but we must not be over-
confident or rash. God forbid. But
when I saw that head cloud with
tongue sticking out I knew we
were in for something strange
and most horrible."

"But how it come about
that, what I want to know" said
Reuben. Reuben any mystery of this
kind could put a spoke in
our wheel. Why it was less than
five minutes after that head and
penetrating appeared and came
down and half an hour was
saying through northeast so I all
shaking. I shudder down next
How could it have got such a
quick start. It beats me
altogether.

"So it does me" was the

3657 - general exclamation
It seemed actually to jump down
to the ground when we thought all
stormy weather was over. Never knew
such a bit of luck that if it was
the the worst luck on record and
yet I don't see as we could ever know
the cause of the rear of the thunder
storm cloud forcing into such a
freak head and how it got to
be there. Why we don't know ourselves
what to do by rights we're doing
more talk than doing anything
about it. It is because no one knows
how to solve it."

"Well, its certain more of us can
blab on that head and I don't see how
any of the others can tell any one
anywhere."

"Not exactly," I said, considering
it has been shut up between the
two thunderstorms besides I don't
believe the highest member of the
Weather department here knows
anything about it. And we can't
make out half about the freak
head ourselves despite we got
the news photos of it.

Yet their photos means
no more that if they were black

monkeys but if they would
help us after all its no
odds the photos could not go
through walls and back again and
if they could what way would they
help us solve the mystery of the
Phenomena.

The men round in here are all
scientist and Weather Bureau officials
and tornado scientists and would
have already solved the mystery if
there way was a clear way to
do so. But there its no use talking
about it its not yet been solved,
and there's an end of it. Still it
beats me all together and one
seems to know what we are up
to just as well as we do our-
selves. I would give all my share
of the reward for solving the
mystery for a shot at it."

I don't like it," one of the others
said. "I don't like as I do
and I say the sooner we do
solve it if we can the better,
after what happened I shant
feel safe even then. We can be
blamed by the news Presses
of all the cities if we are not
successful, and it is our

36. 3655 mission to solve it. & we would know what we are going to do there ain't any reason why the weather department shouldn't know where we are.
"Why, Reuben? sneered "you don't really believe the weather men are sort of conjurers do you?"
"I don't know" the scientists said doggedly "after all since it is so difficult to solve the mystery if not impossible I shouldn't be surprised at nothing not even if the tornado should appear right now."

There was a moment's silence as each voluntarily surrendered.
"We are getting to be like a pair of girls on Lovers Lane?" said savagely and I agree with you the sooner we solve this mystery the better I'll be owing this twister one for years and years and I always pay my debts - at least that sort of debt."

"It seems of no use to be bothering about it" said the

Professor "There's one thing 3656. we know nothing, the Press knows nothing and cannot complain against us. they may guess what they like but all people have not the habit and do not waste their time trying to solve difficult mysteries. If the worst comes for the worst some one of us can only find some lead probably to manow."

And probably won't find much to solve. When any one of us discovers the mystery we can snub our fingers at them. No getting twando. Late after noon and we may have to adjourn, I have a photo so has the Professor and a few others of you. We'll take them home and during spare time study them hard.

They may help us therefore this meeting will be adjourned until to morrow to see by means of these photos if further evidence is forthcoming about I may say under the present circumstances of these photos as well as their negative they spring from we shall feel ourselves obliged to send them

36 385-7. The magazine account of the proceedings of the freak cloud head from the time it was taken on that previous total trouble Sunday afternoon up to it developing fully into a maudlin tornado may be true but so far it is entirely unsupported.

On the other hand we have evidence of the photos admitted coming from that magazine having been made for Mr. Smithsonian.

We have further important fact that he works as a reporter for the La Salle main press and had it may be supposed some knowledge of the taking of tornado scores he had been by some good luck able to catch that freak cloud head rightly or wrongly turned over to the Chicago Tribune and there is reason for the belief that maybe the New Presses of La Salle did equally illegally refuse to accept the negative. What is being investigated? They really did so they'll answer for it, for they are responsible for

the Chicago Tribune getting 365 & it, when it should have been accepted by the Chief La Salle News Press. They had no right or business at all to refuse it. If they're guilty La Salle will close that press.

Will there be any use of my calling evidence as to the character of the head cloud at its morning meeting? the professor asked.

"No" I said: evidence of that kind will be useful at the meeting when the mystery will be thoroughly sifted. We only have to decide that it can be solved and of that there can be doubt."

The next morning the meeting was resumed.

"Was there ever such an unfortunate fellow as I am?" Scientist Reuben exclaimed at the start of the meeting "Here I am for the second time a failure in solving the mystery of the head, and from such despite the photos indeed in the present case. I am a sufferer and all this has come about simply because I went out of

3659. my way to inquire into
this photo. I do not keep at
all. I will see what I can make of it
when I examine more. It may
furnish a clue. I said. Of course it
stands or as it stands it is so
natural and probable that it would
clear the mystery at once had it
not been for the unfortunate cir-
cumstances of that no one had the
chance of catching a photo of
the funnel coming down. and the
supposition excited by it that the
Press would have refused that
negative also.

I shall be able frankly to
disprove it that for I can swear that
you have frequently spoken to
me of that head in awful letter-
ness and that although you
regretted the manner in which
you could not solve the problem
you felt no ill will against
Smithson or the La Salle person
over that negative. being sent to
the Chicago Tribune. or on account
of it. Moreover I shall be able
to prove that the reasons you
gave over the Cloud-head question

was a true one and although 3660
I cannot swear that I expect
any one including myself to
right away solve this mystery
the fact that you are struggling
at your best cannot but cor-
roborate your story. I have studied
hard until near past midnight
last night and almost believe
I might have solved something
through a picture of a human
head in the "look" on human
organs and so on, but can't yet
produce it or talk of it until
I confirm it by further hard
study to night.

"Thank you very much Scientist
Reuben said. Though I have been
thinking it over and do not see
that the evidence of others would
help me much. It will simply
prove that the cloud-head most
mysteriously retained its freak-
shape as it went through
Chester town and other places
on all its course, but will not
show in any way whether being
caught between two storms made
it go as far as that."

"They are probably far away

36 All that we are doing our best.

We must keep up our courage and we will be quite sure that God will do all in his power for us. There is one fortunate

thing for us. There are a few girls here at this meeting who worked in the Telephone Exchange building. They too saw that freakish head and say they believe they know something about it."

One of the girls said: "We saw it before the storm hit our exchange. We however were not hit by the funnel of the storm yet after the storm though our building was wrecked nevertheless had become a centre for rescue work as soon as the awful tornado had passed."

Physicians and our nurses were summoned to our building and even army officers headquarters were established there on the street floor. Two hundred and sixty of us were working at the switch board when the outer edge (not the funnel) of the tornado struck, every window in the building was broken out

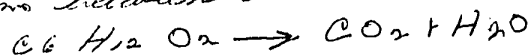
and serious damage was done to our building but the switch boards remained intact.

Norma Pehr
Arnold Uhl

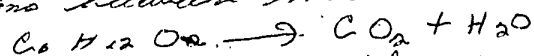
Room 105 Grad 6
Feb 6, 1969

Science

1. A chemical change is an exchange of atoms between molecules.



2. A chemical change is an exchange of atoms between molecules



The very instant the awful windstorm struck every one of us girls were at our place at the switch board and many continued to work while broken glass was showered about us and wreckage from other buildings flew in through the windows.

In our work of sending out calls for assistance in telephone operations of our stricken city delayed a part which is highly commended. Despite the savage fury of the windstorm not one of us telephone girls left our

36 ~~3763~~ switch-boards even when
the fury of the storm was
at its worse. Even though our
exchange buildings were
seriously damaged we remained
on duty as if nothing had
happened.

Yet you wouldn't believe it with
every window being shattered the
walls partially demolished and
the atmosphere of our room so
unchanged with strange myster-
ious electricity U that many
of us were knocked from our
feet we still sat before our
switch boards, and although
trembling with fright plugged
in call after call and shouted
above the din "Number please"
until all the lines suddenly
went dead.

Every one of us operators es-
caped death all of us were
bruised, however and cut by flying
glass, steel and small fragments
from buildings being hurled through
the open windows. The strange
electrical disturbances passed
with the storm. I'll say our
exchange was very lucky.

~~3764~~
3664

Room 136, No. 6
Donald H. Hill

Feb 13, 1967
March 15, 191, 192

not to be in the path of that
awful funnel. One of our street
floors and rooms the furniture
soaked with water and stained
with blood was converted in
a temporary morgue and bodies
from the surrounding district
were held there. Nurses and
physicians occupied another room
where injured persons were
stretched on the floor. We all
saw the head lie on the funnel
come down.

I myself," she continued, had
a pair of field glasses, I even
saw the upper portion of the
funnel connected already with
the main cloud above, and
the lower driven through the top

366 of the head, with the aid of the field glasses I could see the actual tongue churning. It was lucky for us that the funnel did not hit the Delap-here exchange building. None of us believe would be here to tell the tale. But even the wind on the other edge had three times the strength of the wind funnel and wrecked the houses."

"Yes" the professor agreed "I am afraid it would be so. So you saw the tongue whirl with the help of your field glasses. Somehow I did not seem to be able to take the score of it that much. I shall feel

feel more about the mystery afterwards, but at present the whole thing is so extraordinary that I can't quite realize that the mystery can be solved.

The worst of it is that even if we did solve the problem lots of people will not believe we did it. There is only one thing that may prove the solving of the mystery and that is the exact head fracture. Mr. Darger is studying at his own home."

"I hear" I myself said 3667 that one of the chief weather bureau men has written up to the mayor of St. Paul for him to send the head weather of St. Paul to be at this meeting tomorrow morning. Whether they believe we can solve the mystery or not it is quite evident that more than the freak head was concerned in the affair.

Their theory of course is not told about the tongue of the freak head churning all which goes to prove that the tongue was the tornado may be true, but unfortunately it doesn't prove that it was churning."

But in that case Reuben said why should the tornado have traveled such a distance without dying out. They usually only travel fifty miles."

"Yes there is just that question" the professor said, thoughtfully looking questioningly at me "but then on the other hand, why did it take the trouble to retain the freak head formation in case it were not what you

366 would call an accomplice.
In both cases the answer
could be or is the same -
a caught between the two storms
it may have drawn a lot of moisture
from them that kept it a going so
far. It cuts both ways you see
don't you?"

"So it does." Reuben assented. It's
just a question of belief and I am
myself that that old freak-head
business is very much against us
all, and that I can't blame any
one who considers the mystery
impossible to solve."

The professor looked at me.
"What do you think Mr. Darger?"
he asked.

"The evidence for that depends
on that split-head picture I
am studying at home!" I
answered. "Unfortunately for us this
my story is a notoriously &
severe, most difficult one and its
bias from the first appears to
be against us all. That picture
of the split human head
is the cause for me changing
my opinion on the subject. Unless
I study it again it will be a

question which I will 366
not be able to answer very
satisfactorily and to solve that
part is a particularly undating
one because it has been triumphantly
solved by my mother who also is
here at this meeting so I can
give no particular reason except
that on reflection, the head's
precious character and antecedents
convinced me that I don't solve it
by my exhumation to night.
then we might as well give it
up as a froff that we cannot
solve how the freak-head
formed or could have done such
an act."

"In fact" the professor said
sincerely "you were influenced
by the two parts of the head
in thus laying aside a connection
which the facts had at the time
forced upon us, and you. Are you
sure you can solve the mystery
on the picture of the split in
two head?"

"I don't look upon it in that
light yet for I need to study it
more." I replied. "I consider
that in the first instance that

3706 I thought I saw the hope
of something in the tongue
connecting into the lower part
of the throat. On examining this,
I could see the protruding tongue
of the freak head could not do this
and therefore on studying this I could
not act hastily or unadvisedly, and
on consideration that had I done so
my studying of the split human
head would then be of no avail
whatever."

"I'm afraid Mr. Darger" Reuben
said "that unless you can prove
the statement on that matter you
will not persuade many of us
to believe you."

"Let them be so" I answered.
"If I can't find proof and can't solve
the mystery that way then this
debate will be dropped as a failure
and we'll change to some other
topics which also must be discussed.
There are three more."

"I have only one or two more
questions to ask you?" Reuben
said. When he rose to cross-
examine. "I am indeed your
evidence is, as I think the
others at this mystery, the members

will agree altogether 3706
in favor of that split human
head. In the first place was
the picture in that way on the
page of the book, or did you copy
it and split it as you did make
the head. Or in the first place
was the top of the head when
on your examination open to
show the brains also?"

"The picture was in the book
but I did make a copy of it
also to greatly enlarge it" I
replied. "It did show also the
brains, but I made no sketch
of them, as they have no connect-
ion of the tongue tongue mystery,
at all."

"Didn't the top of the head sort
of connect with it?"

"Not that I know of" I again
replied. "But you gave me a good
suggestion I never thought of at
all. Certainly in the course of
my studies I don't yet know
if the funnel penetrated through
the top of the head and came
through the open section like a
mouth to look like a protrud-
ing tongue, I don't see how it

3702. it could even be there, indeed it would be very seldom that such a freak cloud could appear like that with the funnel entering the top of the head, as the funnel takes a slant wire way and not straight downward. Certainly it could not never pass through the top of the head, except it came straight downward, it could not possibly have done so without exciting rigid attentions and remarks on the part of witnesses."

"It would therefore Mr. Dager have no means according to your knowledge as to the external arrangements of the head beyond that it could possibly pass through the back of the head even with the mouth and tongue?"

"Gosh all I am that could be possible" I cried, "its you who has probably hit the nail on the head"

"Maybe no" said Reuben. "now as to that unfortunate affair of the tongue hitting the ground there, one mile southwest of St. Xale the first town along your opinion as to the nature

of the lesion in that 3702. matter is a recent one and the outcome of it being a swelled out character of the head."

Wendy Kimbrell Nov. 22, 1968
Health

Part 1

- 1 ~~skeleton~~ "Not at all at least?"
- 2 ~~brain~~ "don't think so" I said.
- 3 ~~arteries~~ ~~vein~~ X ~~e~~ "I changed my
- 4 ~~preparing~~ opinion on the matter
- 5 ~~48.6 F.~~ very shortly indeed
- 6 ~~that~~ after I studied the picture
- 7 ~~pupil~~
- 8 ~~heart~~ ~~lungs~~ ~~large intestine~~ ~~small intestine~~
- 9 "heart of the split head"
- 10 ~~hearing~~ ~~seeing~~ ~~smelling~~ ~~tasting~~ ~~touching~~

Part 2

- 11 b. a ~~little opening~~ "Within a few hours?"
- 12 c ~~stores food~~ ~~substantia~~ "may say?"
- 13 a ~~the body pump~~ Reuben
- 14 a ~~two~~ ~~hinges~~ asked.
- 15 c ~~separate layers~~ "Within a few hours, I may say."

within five hours study" I replied, "yet I will say the story of the Telephone exchange

3703 girl told to us, that I caught
her field glasses she saw
saw the tongue whirling struck
me as being very much probable
than anything known, except of course
the motion could not be seen by
the naked eye. Was that true?"
I asked of her.

"I would rather say nothing
about it," the girl said. "It is a
matter which had been productive
of much pain and fright to
me and I would rather say nothing
about it."

"But you must madam," I said
sternly and sharply. "As you know
you are here at this meeting to
answer all questions which may
enable the members to form
an opinion on this case."

"I'm sorry I have to press
you Miss Ellison," the Professor him-
self added, "but really I must do
so. You say with the help of your
field glasses you saw the tongue
churning."

"I regret to say that I did.
Even some of the other exchange
girls told me the reason they
suspected the same phenomena

~~3703~~ 8 9 10 11 12 15 (6 17)
13 3704
20 21 22 23

and they confirmed it when I
let them use my glasses. What
I have seen is no cause for
making me change my opinion.
I don't believe an electric motor
could turn so fast."

"After this evidence was given
I said:

"From the photos of the tribune
there is in fact no evidence of
the freak head whatever connecting
the crazy thing between the
two thunder storms beyond the
discovery of it forming in the
thunder storms near and spread-
ing westward and that as to
this trumpery story of
forming between the center of
the two meeting wind currents
I regard it as altogether contem-
pable."

"It followed on word with the
near cloud of the first passing
thunder storm, but it is to that center

3705 nevertheless. When a tornado means to, commit a crazy act of this kind it did so in order to obtain possession of the monster between the two storms and from any spite against old Mother Nature. Had this twister formed elsewhere it would not have allied itself with the two storms to devastate cities and towns so horribly but would probably have vented its spite in the usual fashion - tornadoes do, by running zigzag, but so far as we can see by these Chicago Tribune Photos there was no foundation for the charge brought against it of forming between the storms and we already heard Mr. Ellison declare that he regretted he had suspected it and that he believed if it had formed between the two storms could have forced it to die out. But even had it been proved up to the hilt that the twister formed between the two storms we should still hold it as wholly unconnected with the

present matter. If it had actually formed there what then? It was not such an unusual phenomena nor would it effect its moral (character) character. It was probable that even among other tornadoes there was one or more of exceedingly severe violence who like some fearfully devastated St. Louis in 1896 or of the Omaha disaster.

Many other tornadoes had played hell throughout the central part of this country or had threatened to do so and would not have regarded it a very serious crime had it done so.

Therefore I contend the meeting of this vast crowd should put this trumped up affair altogether out of their minds on the double ground that according to these photos that in the first place, the twister did not form actually between the two storms and that had it done so it would have had nothing to do with the present affair and might have been forced to die out.

"Why Ladies and gentlemen?"

very severe one and (maybe)

3707 I continued "would" it not be
an insult to your understand-
ing to ask you to credit that this
freakish head whose character which
I shall presently try to prove to
you by evidence which may be unim-
peachable is of the highest kind
imaginable has for that awful
afternoon become the consort of the
two great thunderstorms has raged
across the country in all its devast-
ation and rendered itself liable to
be the worst of all tornadoes on all
record, for the purpose of coming
down from the tongue?

Such a contention would be
absolutely absurd that it was actually
between the two storms. So I believe
we can dismiss it altogether from
our minds and approach it from
a different standpoint altogether.

Directed of a business so
extraaneous it could be what we
call a very simple matter. The
tornado came from the rear of
the first thunderstorm at probably
four thirty that a Sunday after-
noon August 15 to go forth on that
awful rampage so positively it
did not form between the two
thunderstorms This ladies and

3708

Norma Ruth
Arnold W.D.C.

Room 105 - Gracie
Nov 7, 1968

My Dear
My Ten Weeks at Arnold
The year I went to my new room
there I ~~met~~ ^{met} a very nice teacher and
made some friends. The principle is nice,
Miss Brintage is not so nice.
My gym teacher Miss Meyer is very
cool. My library teacher Miss Lee is very
nice too. accepted when you get her
mad, the school assignments are not
easy and I don't have any habits.
gentle men is the proof on the
photos when it first took form.
Nothing can be simpler or more
probable and in some points
at least I shall be able to
confirm it by testimony of the
telephone exchange girls. Mrs.
Ellison will tell you that by
the help of ^{her} field glasses
she observed that the tongue
churned that it was round
and not the shape of an ordinary
tongue that its churning was
a very severe one and must

3707 I continued "would" it not be

3709 must have connected through the back of the neck or head within level of the open mouth, and in coming down must have struck the ground with great force. I am convinced ladies and gentlemen that after hearing this evidence you will agree with me not only that the twister did not form between the two storms and is perfectly innocent of the charge but that in an unforeseen moment which was a surprise and regret that it formed in the rear of the first thunderstorm, and that the weather department men should have committed it to trial, or for trial when the only shadow of evidence against it was the discovery that came from that storm's rear, a discovery which can be at once explained.

Of other evidence there is not one jot or tittle. No attempt has been made to prove that the twister formed between the two storms or consorted with them, no attempt has been made to show any real

connection whatever be - 3710
between them and that the head and all came from the west rear of the first thunderstorm. It formed probably for the purpose of effecting a freak and most violent tornado of all time, and who as we know did effect it.

Unfortunately for it, even did not even leave no scrap of the property in the country behind, before it came madly at La Balle and in order to account for the severe blow at Johnsontown next, the council for the tornado prosecution has started the hypotheses that it given in the course that it kept and bee 10 line during its onward rush for Gleason.

But had that been the case ladies and gentlemen the tornado would not be in the center between the two storms. It could have been robbed of its live given power and died out. I shall leave this case in your hands ladies and gentlemen with an absolute confidence that you will without any hesitations find a

3707 I continued "would it not be

3711. verdict proclaiming the
twister formed from the rear
of the ^{her} first storm and not
between the two"

The chief Exchange girl was the
next witness called for the testimony
after stating that although no time
seemed actually noticed for the forma-
tion of the freak cloud head she
observed it form at the edge of the
rear of the first passing thunder
cloud and the result of her ob-
servation of it gave the lightest
chad character saying it looked
like the form of the head of a little
girl being strangled but the pro-
truding tongue giving off a sound
like a big herd of Buffaloes
yelling at one time.

"That head in the first place" she
said proved the most extraordinary
object I ever seen. It could be
fuzzie the most intelligent person.

It was the last thing in the
world which I should consider
capable of the crime of natural
resources which it actually accom-
plished. All of us were struck
with the freak heads sudden
appearance when it formed on

3712

M. SALARIU
Chicago Public Schools

Norma Patu
Hiroto H.C.

FAIR

January 14, 1968
Room 105 Grade 6

My English Composition
for today

Yesterday I went to school
I said hello to my teacher, he said
hello back I went in the room
and sat down. I saw first people were
the rear of the thunder cloud
that though most of the head
was intense black, the tongue too
the face was a dark olive green.
I might have imagined it but
with the help of my field
glasses it did appear the tongue
was ^{whirling} churning.

Another exchange girl was
the next witness. She said
the freak head appeared at
quarter past four P.M. and its
conduct was peculiar and
the tongue in its descent
remarkably quick and violent.
When its ball shape on the
bottom of it but the ground en-
ormous rolling clouds were

3709 continued "would" to continue

high all around it then they took a round under hoop shape finally forming into an immense shroud. The funnel whirled so fast you couldn't see the motion. Forming on both sides of the fo fountain furnace was jagged stretches of dark purple cloud.

"At the time it formed Miss Ellison asked "were you aware that some thing was going to happen out of the soils?"

"I wasn't aware of that fact" Miss Ellison answered "until the tongue fell and the immense rolling clouds shot upward. The noise was like a big 'whoosh' from an enormous gas explosion. Then the shroud. The tongue fell to the ground I believe thirty miles southwest of So. Dallas then it moved forward with great speed"

Everybody with surprise looked at her

"Do you hear any sound from it?"

"Yes. From above high up there was an awfully loud sound

Norma Retic
Arnold U.S.C.

Room 105 - Block 6
Nov 21, 1968

math

ad 20

456	289	193	389
<u>269</u>	<u>376</u>	<u>537</u>	<u>396</u>
725	665	730	725

536 + 587 = 1123	947 + 589 = 1536	654 + 858 = 1532
677 + 388 = 1065	666 + 666 = 1332	385 + 769 = 1154

948 + 679 = 1627
562 + 949 = 1511

3	629	406	384	293	425	151	476
	<u>153</u>	<u>279</u>	<u>455</u>	<u>563</u>	<u>395</u>	<u>285</u>	<u>389</u>
	782	685	839	856	820	442	865

157	426	748
285	376	<u>197</u>
820	442	845

763	637	666	858	647	1123
<u>578</u>	<u>895</u>	<u>444</u>	<u>564</u>	<u>886</u>	<u>998</u>
1341	1532	1110	1422	1532	1121

3714 loud sound like distant
thunder but as a steady
harsh humming sound where it

746	578
368	839
1114	1417

hit the ground at that distance the
sound is impossible to describe but
if I ever was to hear that again
somewhere else with a dark sky
I believe I'd turn white in my
very face."

"From what part of the funnel
was the worst part. From what part
did you hear it?"

"I heard it from where it con-
nected with the ground and while
moving forward."

How was it it came down so
sudden Miss Hazel?"

"It didn't actually ~~didn't~~ come
down suddenly, but it was not
slow about it either. Had anybody
been possessed with a camera
at the time he could have taken
a snap shot of it if he was
quick enough."

The head one usually known
in information was next examined

She confirmed the high 3715
character which Miss Ellison had
given of the tornado, and adding
that she too had seen it come
down and rise all that cloud from
the ground, that she felt she knew
it would be headed for La Salle
and had upon occasion seen it
devastate from a high building
part of the exchange building
the Gleason Asylum. She said it struck
like a big explosion.

The counsel for the evidence
then addressed us, sang and gave
great credit upon their narrative
which he said was materially
supported as to the extremely
dangerous character of the 'tongue'

That the upper part of the
twister went into the lower back
of the head was likely enough,
it may have turned out that
the freak head was a badly
swelled out of that section of
the funnel itself and it was
probably it was there in the
open mouth part that the
lowest part of the funnel first
stuck out as a protruding tongue.

continued "could it not be

3716 "An-7 say the head might have been a swollen part of the funnel. It could have been like when you step on a part of a garden hose, where the water cannot pass through to the nozzle the hose swells out. Our learned telephone girls have told you something that may help us to solve the mystery.

At first it seemed impossible for us to do so. You have heard that the tongue made a noise as if from a big herd of buffaloes and that the evidence of it coming down so fast is so strong that it cannot be doubted.

It is true that they have told you that as it hit the ground great clouds rose up high around the funnel. That is the force of the funnel ball theory throwing up the ground that way. A tornado that can do that is exceedingly, very, exceedingly dangerous.

But after the evidence the telephone girls told you will readily understand that all stress can be laid upon this. The matter so far from

being trivial as they represent 3717 it is highly important as here we find again that the funnel in descending tore up the ground and farm crops like into clouds just as some others have done on the first occasion.

The opened lower part of that ball part shaped funnel must have had a most tremendous vacuum to do that. Many think when the clouds rise up like that it is the bursting of the tornado globe. It is not. It cannot burst and God keep what is in its path. You will therefore see the extreme importance of this point.

I am perfectly ready to admit that this is a circumstantial evidence in nature but from the nature of the case that this should be so. Had Mr. Smithsonian waited and took a snapshot of the 'tongue' falling to the ground it is probable that much more evidence would have been forth coming. It is however for us all to weigh the probabilities of the mysteries of the head and protruding tongue. You and I have to consider whether

3718 the theory which they have laid before you as to the connection of the twister so violently to the ground, in this affair of this head being "swelled out part of the tornado"

I then summed up with a strong bias against that idea. I told them that evidence of character of the head of the funnel being swelled that shape was of course of importance but that it could not be relied upon too far.

The appeared undoubtedly to be of great length, and having a well conducted sphere formation at its bottom, but unfortunately my experience tells me that many Tornadoes take that ball shape at its base.

Stress has been laid by the counsel for the evidence of the also wild commotion of the head and the upper body upon the fact that the twister was not known at the time to have consorted with the two thunderstorms. But this after all was only negative evidence. Affairs of this sort were always

in most violent tornados 3719 and had any one of these twisters come down to the ground like this one as is probable enough to produce uncontrollable fury along its path it would naturally make itself very conspicuous. We have heard the testimony of the telephone exchange girls and must judge for ourselves but I agree with the counsel for the solving of the mystery that the fact that this twister had come 'balling' down and that great rolling clouds shot up all around it and that probably by moving forward more than a mile a minute could not but have a decided influence upon the minds of all who witnessed it.

At the same time I will tell you before this days meeting is soon adjourned that if any of you have a doubt in your minds it is your duty to go give the freak head the best benefit of that doubt."

The Tornado weather scientists consulted to gather for a minute or two and then left for their homes and supper.

a buzz of talk arose in the meeting hall as all of us prepared to leave for supper. Opinion was divided as to what the solving of the mystery would be. When the Council for the mystery prepared to leave opinion was that it may not yet be solved. But the speech of the Council about the mystery and my summing up had caused a reaction and few doubted now that the mystery would be solved. So also I thought I felt hard at that the decision should in fact depend upon the tongue depending violently to the ground which is brought against the tinker. I was in the habit of what I called arguing myself out by myself and as I stood by the door for a few minutes before going out I in a silly way tried to put myself in the position of the tinker and I felt that in that case I should have difficulty in coming to a decision.

Chin Kady

I first went off to dine at the nearest hotel and already almost all the members had trooped out and the day's meeting

closed. Far into the night I sat in my room studying the phological head in search of a way to solve the strange mystery. I also made experiments hoping to discover something that would aid me. The only thing I could discover is by studying a skull I had in my room.

I examined the back of the skull yet near midnight found me still unsuccessful. I took a narrow rubber tube and succeeded in pushing it through an opening in the back, and made it go out of the mouth part way like a protruding tongue.

The rubber was a very soft type and so I blew into the tube to see if I could make it swell up. It did like a balloon. I believed I had solved the mystery. The head was the swelled section of the funnel, the lower part forming the tongue.

At nine o'clock the members came back to renew the meeting. I his time Grantham

3722 was there. The seats open to the members quickly filled as the news spread through the town, several members of the bar dropped in and then I came in and took my seat. I occupied the time trying to judge from the faces of the members what their decision would be. They looked sulky and tired.

"Are you agreed gentlemen as to the decision of the mystery I believed I have solved in this case?" I asked.

"We are the professor replied. Are you sure you have no danger."

"I believe so" I replied. At least

I can produce an excellent type of testimonial from nearly all

Mar. 11, 1968
 Room 105 - Block
 I would like to
 examine when I
 worked on my skull of

sure it might not 3723
 be genuine. If there is more time I shall study the head further which I have brought here and a short rubber tube. But now you mention it I don't know that it is very wise to tamper with it when yet I know little about it."

I produced the skull and the short rubber tube.

"Oh I never thought of that" the Professor exclaimed. "I am sure though you discovered something. It is only because you spoke of it not well that now I mention it."

"It seems to work" I remarked. "And there fore I should be a sharp fellow, and I see that my experiment might have worked. Do you remember at the meeting yesterday evening that one of you believed that the head was a swollen part of the upper funnel? Well I inserted as I'll demonstrate this rubber tube through the back of the skull, and got one end to protrude through the mouth. It

3725 was an experiment rather than a test I don't know whether it'll work perfectly or a not good demonstration and may not fail on its own account I don't think it will fail soon"

I demonstrated
Every body came over to my table to look.

"I really feel interested in this" Mr. Dagen, the professor said turning to me "I wish if you get the opportunity you would show it to the Mayor who may find out something about it all."

"I will if you like if Professor but I don't suppose there's much chance to find out and what there is is not likely to prove anything. It demonstrates proof however what some said a portion of the upper funnel by a strong strange freak which spread out into the head of carnation and then ran amuck"

"But could this have good testimonials?" Dorothy asked.

"As to testimonials" I said "any thing can be given a testimonials if some one writes one."

Norma Patri
Arnold W. E. C.

January 13, 1969
Room 105 - grad 6

My English Composition
The Lady

When I got up yesterday I
~~my proposal to the morning~~
I clean my room and cleaning
the house to come friend of my
come over they went to my mother
if I can come with them the day
Indians said when they came
~~back~~ back we were good you so we
went with them we had a much fun
on the highway so we got to the house

"How suspicious you are Henry" the
little girl laughed "That's the worst
of being the head of the Relief Committee
and having to do with the home-
less You think whatever the mystery
you come across is a rogue tornado
until you find one out another
could still be a worse rogue. Now?
I think every tornado is the worse till
I find one to be a most disastrous
one yet"

"My way and I don't see the simplest"
I laughed at any rate there are five

376 Roger told them to each have
severe one."

"Ah but that is not a fair average"
Angelina objected. "Of course in studying
this head phenomena one has to
be careful considering that half the
tornado phenomena are not yet solved
and I must own that the tornadoes
are severely dangerous but how
could it be otherwise when old Mother
Nature sends all her cyclones to
us. You will see when tornadoes come
on like this one did and get more
abundant every body will refuse to
live in tornado territory."

"Very likely they will if there is
such a given territory" I agreed. "but
what are they to do when tornadoes
occur every where except mountain
regions in west and east?"

"What is the problem" Dorothy
said carelessly. "There is no reason
why old Mother Nature should
throw them unto us. Yet more
to your discovery? suppose
you could could do so now
again."

"I could manage in a very
short way" I said. "The head is
the upper part of the furnace"

Norma Ruth
Arnold U. S. C
English

Room 105-6
Oct 11, 1958

1. I apply second coat of varnish of paint
to boards. Let dry.
2. Place two pairs of bricks on the floor
at proper distance from each other. The
floor will be the first shelf.
3. Decide on the length, width, and height
of the bookcase.
4. Place bricks on second shelf to hold
top shelf.
5. Decide on and collect your materials
such as boards, varnish, or paint,
kind of brick, paint brush.
6. Place second shelf on top of
bottom bricks.
7. Before beginning to build bookcase
apply in first coat of varnish or paint
to boards. Let dry.
8. Put top shelf in place.

3707

I continued "and

swelling into that shape. It will not matter much what that freak head was, but I guess no tornado could go back to that now."

"No I guess not" the little girls agreed but I have no doubt" Angelina continued "but you've solved the mystery don't you think so or believe so Henry?"

"I yet dare not say I did" I answered "that is for the members to decide, certainly if I were to win on that problem it could be submitted to the main weather department in Washington D.C. Yet with tornadoes no one is safe."

"Oh all parts of the country is not so bad as all that Henry" said Dorothy "you are giving the central part of this country a bad a very bad character"

"I will or think the Professor will agree it's a true solving of the mystery" I said smiling "Oh Professor Moline?"

"I hope so" the latter replied. "I know studying it kept you pretty busy. However after nearly an all night work no one must grumble

and I had also plenty to do when I studied the head 3778 from the news photos - yet what you discovered puzzles me. It is certainly an altogether exceptionally a well formed plan with that rubber tube but I can't quite make it out.

I think in a way though your theory is correct and I'll say it without hesitation but how it that part of the funnel could bulge out and form the head and protruding tongue I can't make out. If it cannot have served out its given time as no one saw any clock at that moment and yet somehow I don't think that the cause was impossible from the manner the upper part of the head convulsed so frightfully.

I could see by the upper part of the funnel going down as it appeared behind the head according to the photos something was absolutely fishy. It had no other other connection except the back of the head which it formed so if as I could learn I should say

3779 It certainly has been true it had not been in the center between the two thunderstorms so far as the photos show. Yet what made it go all the way on a straight line is as far as I can learn. I certainly like the way you made your discovery. Mr. Darger though I own that so far I cannot altogether make it out perhaps I shall learn something more about it before to days meeting is over and in that case I will tell you all I know.

"What am I to do about this mystery?" I asked as having closely examined it I owe something to it and there is nothing I wouldn't do about it. The question is what?

One does not like to give it up yet even if it does appear partly solved.

"So the profession agreed especially on this case. The mystery of this phenomena appears very much above its condition. The demonstration of the tube pointed it out to me and I have since looked it over several times and find it a very surprising thing certainly

that freak head might have been the swelled out portion 3000 of the upper section of the funnel but still the difference from that of other tornado funnels in their condition of abrupt action, and I should taken this for a freak of the most unusual kind which have gotten into this formation and ran amok had it not been for the demonstration of the tube.

Still there is something very mysterious about this. I really wonder what part of the funnel it came from yet I feel as deeply indebted to your probable solving of the mystery as you do.

I nodded, "Yes" I said "if it had been some other type of tornado I could have set the matter right, by drawing a better picture of that split head, and I shouldn't have cared how big, but with this funnel probably sticking through the back of the head I don't quite see my way. However I will shift the responsibility by leaving the matter in the decision of all the members they're much better at things.

3801* of this sort that require a light touch than we are. I do not wonder that the telephone girls are still shaken by that awful crazy night they shall never forget the scene."

"You must give us time Mr. Dargen to get up our noses" one of them said. "I have no doubt a few days off duty will do it. But of course it is only right and proper that young ladies should be pale after seeing that horrid right that fatal Sunday the August 15th. But do not let us talk it" she said with a shudder."

I should not like to be able to think about that horrid funnel striking the ground with that ball on its bottom again for six months.

My dad used to say I wasn't afraid of anything at all but I am sure I cannot lay claim to any special courage in the future for no one in the world could feel more frightened than I did that awful afternoon at that horrid funnel hitting the ground."

"Well my dear girls you were

no worse than any one else 3802 for every one in the endangered part of Sa Hall bolted at the approach of the twister" said the head telephone woman exchange girl. The way the streets were cleared was something marvelous"

"Yes Mrs Watson but we were in the Sa Hall telephone exchange building not the streets. It was lucky for us our building was not in the path of the main force of the storm. We might have all been killed"

"It was a terrible moment" I said. "But I agree with Miss Francis that it is better for you girls to try and think nothing more about it until you have perfectly recovered your health and spirits."

"We have made some good success on the phenomena of the head" declared the Professor which description is decreed by the members and written down and all have signed. It is a great gratification for us to have it cleared up at last. It is the swelling of that part of the funnel all right that formed

3803 that crazy head. Who could have thought of it? It was Mr. Dargen who solved it confirming the whole thing.

"Oh I am glad," Dorothy exclaimed. "You know Henry I was sure it would be you who would succeed and I know how you longed for it to be proved to the world. What will we do Henry to make it completely public?"

"I and the Professor shall each send a copy, properly attested to the main weather department at Washington D.C. and other copies to the various news papers. Concern, which Scientist Reuben Whitney tells me will accept it gladly."

"Now," I continued "there's mystery No. 2 which I firmly believe was never solved, probably never can be. It is about that long windmill outfit that was hurled around Mr. Simon Segres barn. That fact is not so terribly mysterious and strange for tornadoes have wrapped all kinds of long objects around trees, poles, farm silos and so on. The mystery is where did the twister take it from?"

No one answered.

3804
"I wish Mr. Henry John Johnson" I said "that you would tell me a little more about your windmill as your farm was first devastated by the tornado. You understand that I do not ask from mere inquisitiveness, but after what happened to your farm you see we have gotten into this strange mystery too deep, and if we members here knew more about your windmill too we could the easier see in what way I could really be useful under the circumstances. What kind of windmill stood on your farm?"

"A hundred and sixty foot one of wood," the farmer replied with a smile. "It is still there as the twister missed it. Its history is a rumple one. We got to our cellar on time but the twister left nothing but the windmill and an old ramshackle half broken down barn. Of all things it would avoid that. Unhappily it ruined all my forty five acres of crops and killed forty of my cows, twenty big, sixty sheep and two of my best horses."

3805 They were out in the pastures and the storm flung the hens and there for like kicked footballs. I know they are very heavy animals but I don't know what became of my thirteen big hogs and the chicken house with all my chickens. My flock of geese however escaped.

I could not hardly suppress a laugh.

"I believe your chickens hale and hearty, are kept in a chicken enclosure in Chester brown," said "But what a funny sight I added nearly laughing. Not one of them have a single feather on them and are extra large. How many did you have?"

"A hundred and fifty" he answered. "But how can I identify them or claim them without their feathers. And if they were extra large hens as you say then they could not be mine. Also I lost ¹⁰⁰ forty large turkeys. I found their featherless bodies many with their heads and necks twisted off. Broken legs and mangled bodies. All my neighbors who escaped

came to my aid as far as 3806 as they could in house and barn rebuilding and so on but that can restore or make up my loss in animals and birds. The wind mill on my farm is a pain in the neck but plenty to keep it working. A new one would be far less expensive. I had hired workers to come as soon as possible, tear it down and replace it.

And damn it the twister would wipe me almost out and leave that.

Only fifty one acres of my farm was side swiped. My farm was pretty large with 40 acres, gave me a good business. I didn't lose any of my hired hands as they all were in the cellar with me.

Except for that old wooden wind mill out fit and the wreck of an old useless barn and the fifty acres nothing was left. But fortunately all my neighboring farmer friends came to my aid and I'll soon have a new home and barns.

I've even lost all my orchards. My mother was with me but taking care of my geese beyond at the time."

377 "And is your mother alive? Did she escape?"
 "yes sir Where she was with the twelve geese she was too far from the tornado"

"But how come you had such a rotten windmill on your farm, indeed I cant see how you come to put up with it"

"That sir" the farmer said gravely, "was there when I bought the farm."

"I may say that it was a serious matter, but but the former owner was not really to blame what ever people may think. His conscience is absolutely clear as the iron windmill was not included in the sale and did not cost me a cent"

"I do not seek to know further Farmer Johnson, I think I know enough now of the owner of the farm that he did nothing wrong and am perfectly willing to take your word for it in the matter."

However I am glad that you have told me as much as you know. Your description of your loss, the death of

your kindly neighbor perfectly account for what seemed strange before. We'd give anything to find out where that windmill outfit came from which is wrapped around Mr Segrees barn, and another thing. How far are you from So Falls?"

"About twenty two miles southwest sir"

"And yours was the first one?"

"Yes sir"

"How about your neighbors farm northeast of you?"

"They didnt reach their cellar in time. He was dashed against a big tree and died suddenly. His wife and children are still in the hospital at So Falls. His farm and all it had was wiped out. He had an iron framed windmill but it only stood forty feet high. It is gone with the rest."

"This is very awkward Mr Danger, a farm woman whose name was Mrs Donald. Do you know that no farmer all the way up to So Falls ever had such a windmill as described being flung around Mr Segrees barn?"

Oh Alice her mother exclaimed

2809 "what difference can that make?"

It seems to me Mrs Donald said "that it makes a very very great difference you know grand me never thought a twister would come to these parts, yet one did and it is very awkward now finding an investigation going on about that windmill, especially as it has wrapped itself around Mr Segrees barn Do you think so professor?"

"I do not pretend to know anything about such matters Mrs Donald" the professor said bluntly "And I shouldn't have thought it could make any difference where that windmill came from. Its there wrapped around the barn and he intends to let it stay there for good."

"I only say its a mystery where it came from, whether the tornado got hold of it I again

can only say that most other farms devastated had only wooden frame work towers for their windmills and ten per cent of those farmers or their families were killed.

The other main mystery 2810 is how the (tornado) tornado could have carried such a tall heavy windmill iron frame work tower and flung its axle and around the barn like that

I can only say that Mr Segree is an honorable gentleman with whom anyone here would be glad to associate. Directly after the terrific storm at Chesterham he turned his barn into a hospital for all emergency cases of the injured. He is making business now from tourists and other visitors who come to see that freak around his barn. But where that came from I believe it will always remain a mystery."

Mrs Donald colored slightly at the implied earnestness of the professor of words. Since the tornado she had always shared her mothers opinion on the strange mystery of that windmill business, and she had not been long enough in this part of Illinois to become accustomed to the freaks of great tornadoes which are so frequent.

"you do not understand Professor Malone" she said "It was only that it came from some unknown farm and there were other circumstances—"

"Oh Alice" her mother broke out "How can you speak of such things. No farm was traced where it came from. All attempts have been made to locate the farm. Professor she said impulsively "Where in the world did the tornado pick it up. There was nothing in the circumstances to which farmer lost it"

"I feel certain of that Mrs Valgish. "even without your assurance your daughter is shaken by the events of that awful day for she too as you know lost most of her farm and no wonder, and I am quite sure when she thinks this matter over she will see that whatever her preconceived idea may be it would be an unusual miracle if the farm that windmill ever came from could be really traced?"

"The question of this windmill mystery had been one

which had caused more serious discussion between investigators and scientists since the tornado than any that any one could have even remembered. The delegates had taken their own view of the case while the scientists had agreed with the farmers and although the subject had finally been dropped by mutual consent it had been a very sore one and at the right of Mr Segrees barn the remembrance of the turnsters great "clam" around the barn had caused them to play a part which they could not but feel strange and fearsome about it. Could it be possible it had been standing in some southwestern part of the city?

It is difficult to say whether the Professor was the most surprised at this unexpected information. The farmer was aware that there had been or was an immense windmill upon one structure over a large exhaustless deep well and it supplied water for that part of the city. It was one hundred and seventy five feet high fifty thirty feet wide at its base. But that this

3518. Big windmill structure
which is made so strong should
be torn from its strong foundation
should now be wrapped around
Mr Segres barn seemed incredible.
But my surprise at hearing of this
was at least equal to that which
the professor felt.

I could scarcely credit the evidences
of my senses of hearing that that
was the windmill whom I had
seen wrapped around Mr Segres barn.

As is usual in this case the
professor was the first to recover
from his surprise.

"If it is true it is to some cause
we owe this mystery," he said. "Why
that windmill was nearly five
miles away from Mr Segres barn
and how could even that twist
carry such an immense structure
so far? Is it not very extraordinary

Reuben?" he said turning to
the scientist.

"The surprise to me is even
greater to you Professor than to
me," I said. "The Mayor even of
La Salle always spoke of
that unusual windmill structure
and I had not the slightest

idea that it was in the 3819
extreme southwestern point of the
city as I never have seen it. My
mother who is in Chicago wrote
to me a year ago telling me of
the magnificence of the tall wind-
mill structure, but although she
said that its framework was painted
red she said nothing of how
many feet high it was or had
been in fact much disturbed in
my mind in thinking what
my mother wrote that it was
red painted.

The outfit wrapped around Mr
Segres barn was of a vermilion
red I had wrote Buck begging
my mother to send me all the
particulars that she knew about
that great windmill structure and
she did. Another letter told me
it was owned by the city of
Chesterbarn and its government
and according what she heard cost
five hundred thousand in its materials
and an extra hundred thousand
for the cost of its erection and
for the workers.

"It is very simple," the pro-
fessor said quietly, "although of

3820 course. It seems so strange to you about the color of its frame work. He looked at the clock. It was near dinner time. He said "Chester Brown or what is left of it is not so far from So. Hall here. You've got a good fast machine. Can you drive there after dinner and see if the windmill is still in its place. If so let us know on your return."

"I'll be glad to go. I'm so anxious to see, I'll go first and have dinner after I come back and report."

He soon was on his way.

"This is really very awkward Mrs. Dargen" Mrs. Donald said. "Do you know that that windmill structure was one of the most magnificent in the whole world?"

"Oh Alice" her mother exclaimed "what difference does it make now even if it is still there the tornado totally ruined it beyond recovery."

"To me it does seem."

Mrs. Donald said, "that

it ought to make a great difference to us all whether it is ruined or not you know mamma you always admired it and it would be very awkward now finding it still there but wrecked, and in such a situation especially as it cost so much in material and its erection. I know this certainly was the most strongest tornado on all record, but I can't make my self believe it was so strong to carry that away with it do you think so professor?"

"I do not know anything about it Mrs. Donald the professor answered. "And I shouldn't have at all thought it could have made it any different which could make it possible whether the timber was strong enough to carry it or not."

Whether it was saved or spared from such a fate that could have befallen it or not what it weighed no body knows. I can only say the tornado was a record breaker whom any one now knows, but whether it carried the windmill out put or not ^{we} do not know.

3707
377
th
no
me
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ca
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t
u
3822 untill Reuben comes back
with his report more than that
I cannot inquire. I am not yet
known whether it is the same
windmill wrapped around Segres River
or not untill it proved it is not
in its former place."

"All right" said Mrs Donald.
But just the same if it did
happen you or I cannot understand
how even that tornado could ever
carry it. It was not only that it
was such a tall one and so
heavy there could have been other
strange circumstances."

"Oh Alice dear" her mother broke
out "how can you speak of such
impossible things. No one has
yet declared that the tornado carried
it away. Here we are at present
talking about a ridiculous incident
and you are going now to greatly
exaggerate the strength of the
twister. That is taking up a
miserable old story" Mr Darger
she said to my very impulsively
"My father one of the most just
as well as one of the most
learned men had been one of those
constructing it and had the most
highest opinion of it and really

3823
believe me there was
nothing in the circumstances
to which any one alludes which
could prove I am sure cast the
slightest suspicion that even this
tornado as strong as it was could
carry that windmill and all its tall
farm work tower."

"I feel feel certain of that
my dear lady" I said: unless we
have proof your daughter might
disbelieve that no tornado could carry
that matter do? and no wonder
it stood one hundred and seventy
five feet tall and over thirty
feet wide at its base and I
am quite sure that when we
think this matter over we will see
what even our preconceived ideas
might be. It would be most
impossible and inconceivable that
even this tornado could carry it
or that any one could breathe
a single word in disparagement
of the windmill tower. Of course
the twister might have damaged
it beyond reconstruction but it
could not carry it away with it.
Surely that is outside the
question to our dinner it is time this
debate can resume afterwards"

3707
3824 So saying I dismissed
the meeting for our dinner
and turned on my heel and
left the room and all the
members followed my example.

Yet, at the meals my reflections
were not pleasant. I felt some sort
of misgivings about the windmill
tower and that Mrs Donald and
her mother may be right.

As a rule the two women were by
no means skeptical but they or
especially Mrs Donald essentially
did believe the twister disposed
of the whole windmill outfit and
her mother disputed her. The
question of the windmill tower

had been one which has caused
more dissension between also
between her father and mother
were living in La Salle than
any. she remembered

she had taken her mother's
view of the case while her sister
had agreed with her father,
and although the subject was
never dropped it still was a
very disputable one and at the
memory of the windmill, and
at the sight of the one wrapped
around Mr Segres barn, the

3825
an impression of the fact
incident had caused Mrs Donald
to play a part which she could
not feel even correct and
worthy. I felt angry and worried over
the matter, worried what Ruben sort
of report Ruben would bring and
over the one around Mr Segres barn.

What worried me most was
in her letter my mother wrote that
the windmill tower was painted a
wormitten red.

The outfit wrapped around Mr
Segres barn was of the same
color and must also have been a
very tall one to have been
wrapped around so large a barn.

I sat at the table with my
lips pressed pressed together as I
thought over the matter. My
anger and worry almost spoiled
my appetite. When the professor
came to sit at my table.

But during the long two hours
of mealtime I sat at the table
and thought over what Mrs Donald
said, the thought of how much
it could be possible the twister
carried it away was uppermost
in my mind. Finally I
said to the professor -

3826 Mr. Danger I thank you
for what you said to Mrs. Donald.
You may be right and she may
be wrong. Maybe the windmill
is gone. I can only say though
it is a very rare subject I believe
it is the one wrapped around Mr.
Agnes' barn. Or on my surprise.
I thought of the color it had been
painted and the color of the one now.
This barn corresponds with that I am
suspicious."

That is true quite enough. Pro-
prietor I said as I finished my second
Park. chaps. I am very glad you have
said what you have. I was sure
that you would upon reflection
feel that what ever happened to
the whole outfit it could not
weigh against the strength of the
tornado and it might have
ever carried away. But Reuben
when he returns during the
next part of the meeting will
confirm all things. So until he
returns let us say no more on
the subject and finish our meal.
She was shaken and not her-
self and I would be wrong in
taken her up still under the
circumstances until Reuben re-
turns with his report."

3827 Timothy or Angelina said
nothing and their faces showed
that they were greatly pleased at
our conversation.
"What is going to be done if
Reuben brings in a few favorable
report Mr. Danger?" Mrs. Donald said
or asked coming to my table. "Of
course we cannot stay to dinner too
long and yet there is no chance of
him coming back too soon as Chest-
abrown is far from here."

"I am afraid not indeed" I answered
"Most of us or all will leave for the
meeting hall at one thirty to get to
our meeting this afternoon. I have been
speaking to the other heads and they
say they want the meeting to last a
little longer to day. The professor sent
off Reuben to investigate the windmill
site for he hopes to bring news whether
it is still there or not, which may
set him on the tracks of its where-
abouts. You need however be under no
alarm for I think there is no chance
what ever of his finding it gone.
By the way Whitney would like
to speak to you after dinner
during the afternoon meeting. He
counts on to give him a
as a minute a description as you
can show you saw it before the

3702
3829 I have already descriptions
of it from my mother, but
the mystery has increased lately
and I am positively afraid and sure
that it is the one wrapped around
Mr Segers barn and any particular
might be useful."

After dinner the meeting whatever
my second leader of the meeting
came around in a quarter of an hour
later. Mr Parker fetched him into
the meeting hall where Mrs Sullivan
was seated.

"Mr. Kleben has not returned yet
for now the worse, and I'm glad
if he returns with good news,"
he said as he shook hands
with the three ladies.

"I see no change about it yet
until he returns whatever," Mrs
Sullivan said. But from this my
daughter who lost her children
is now conscious but does not
speak much. She too knows the
windmill. Her husband was
his attendant before he got hurt
in the storm. He asked me
this morning to tell you he
knows too but can't come to
the meeting as he has to
stay by his daughter's side."

3830
"The mystery is due to the
tornado rather than anything else.
Mrs Sullivan. "We have however you
know our common interest at this
meeting to be here to find out if
it is the same wind mill tower
wrapped around the barn or not,
and above all to find out if its
not the same wind mill Mrs
Donald if you feel equal to it
would you kindly give me or us
an account to Mr Whitney of what
you know about the wind mill
tower? Mr Parker said that he
would not ask you yesterday
because of the tornado need
discussion but something perhaps
let my try chance might serve
as an indication to us as whether
the mill is wrapped around
the barn or not."

"I will tell you certainly"
the woman said her face paling
a little although its dreadful
even now to think of it. We
of course had no idea of what
was going to happen and had
got supper ready as usual. We
live in one of the buildings
but the kitchen missed. We
always have one of our junctions

3831 I continued writing in my diary. I was sweeping my porch and a great coming dark mass made my husband nervous for our safety. Our children was busy setting the supper table. The tornado passed us by pretty close with an awful roar. But it got so dark that we could not see the destruction it was doing though we did hear all the smash the creaking of the buildings inside.

The barn belonging to Mr. Segree is just a few houses away to the southwest of us. His main house is south of it. His own quite an estate.

The first we knew about it Mr. Donald went on was a tremendous crash outside to the east of us which was followed by a loud thunderous banging sound. We first thought some men had burst our door down with cannon balls or something like the noise we heard, but I could not see how that was possible as the door was awful thick and strong and had strong wooden bars inside which kept the door in its place, you could not believe batter it down with a

with a log. I hurried on my raincoat just as I had done it was not a minute from the time I heard the crash Alice ran in with a rain coat on too. I heard my husband Mr. Donald shout to the servants at the moment of the great crash and ran to a window.

Mr. Donald had been standing behind the door. The tornado had already rushed by Alice would have run down to see what had happened to the door but her mother wouldn't let her out of my room as I feared she could not have done no good and might have been shot by the men whom I thought was trying to break in.

Donald and the servants we saw had opened the door and he shouted up to us to come down and outside to see the strange thing that happened to Mr. Segree's barn.

So we opened the door and came down, at once out side was a crowd of people from our houses hastening to and the barn. Alice gave a little

3107
3833 day of joy as she saw me
one had tried to break in
and saw her husband and several
ing outside. unhurt and yet
looking staged and confused at what
he was observing. The owner of the
windmill - I suppose you have not
heard it is city property?

"No indeed" Whitney said I would
give a good deal to know about its
construction."

"What do you know about it?"

"I only know that the construct-
ion gang were young fellows not
much older than I was then. I was
so strongly constructed that people
jokingly said it received a "life
sentence" I heard about its building
up from Police Officer William
Wilson who is married to my
oldest daughter. It was built up
a year after I came here. This
tornado has been a scourge to
this state and country. As I and
my daughter came to the door,
as I said at first thinking it was
rough thieves trying to break down
the door, both of brought down
a brace of loaded revolvers
with more bullets in our pocket,
and slipped on ready in my

3834
hand. It was awful. Mrs. Donald said putting her
hand to her face "awful" to be
standing there among the crowd
and witnessing what we never believe
or thought what we did see. A great
long windmill tower was wrapped
around the Degees barn.

The men about us were laughing
and shouting and cursing and
pointing towards it. Several times
while we were standing there
I saw a man looking hard at
us. Presently he said "I have it
now" "Why you are the Ellison girl
ain't you?"

"I was was astonished as you
may suppose but I said "I am
Mrs. Ellison Donalds wife and Catherine
is my mother."

"By the love of God who would
have thought it" he said "Do
you know who I am?"

"I said I didn't although really
I seemed to have some sort
of recollection of his face.

"Why" he said don't you
remember Tom Peter Thorne
whose father the square sold
to us a public house one of
the escaped slaves here? And to

3835 think now that the squares
gallant daughters are here
standing beside me. I he is a
piece of good luck. Well my
dear "he went on with a grin
you need not tell me how you
came to Chester town now
you will have plenty of time
for that.

But you see I am now a married
man and have five children.
They're with me. See them. But
I never dreamt that I was in for
such a slice of luck as this to
meet again my childhood friends
and companions."

"I was sure glad to meet him
for in our childhood days he
was a sure true friend, playmate
and companion.

Then he went on saying
he witnessed the tornado slinging
it around the barn and was
surprised the barn was not
damaged though to stand in
a sort of slanting position. It
was of of vermilion red color
but twisted all out of shape like
the broken body of a long snake.

Strangely the windmill was
still intact and still turning

the old breeze it was 3836-
awful. I would not go through
that half hour again for all
the money in the world."
I had given a sudden joyful
slant when Mrs Donald mentioned
the name of Tom I-home - but I had
not interrupted her.

"I know that man myself.
I said as she finished, 'and by
heavens he's one of the best friends
I had also when I was a boy.
Is he still in Chester town?"

"No he went to New York city
to get away from tornadoes."

I then some one said "That is
in the sound of a machine coming
here and now stopping near the
entrance. Perhaps it is Reuben
come now"

Hurrying to the door we found
to our great satisfaction that the
members guess was verified
Reuben had been at Chester town
and had started for So-belle
again arriving earlier than we
had ventured to hope yet the
instant he came in with some
two constables with him that
he had failed in his mission.
Without speaking a word to us.

3537 he sat down on his chair
and he motioned the constables
to sit on each side of him.
Finally Reuben said:

"How did it come about that what
I want to know. The windmill
tower is not there, its gone. Only
thirty feet of it above the well is
left and the iron framework is
twisted like rope.

This mystery has put a spoke
in our wheel. Why it was the
tornado could wrench loose and
carry that big heavy thing away
with it? How could it have
got such a strength together.
I'd like to know. I even made
a special run to Mr Segues barn
to take a look at that mill
out fit around it. It really and
positively is the one the tornado
took with it. I know by its make-
ing and handsome design. It beats
me altogether."

"So it does me" was the general
exclamation.

"It seems regularly why the
twister didn't tear it out of the
well. Never knew such a bit of
luck, that if it was luck
and not done on purpose and yet

I don't see how the tornado 3538
could carry that giant wind
mill platform. Why none of 3539
us could believe it ourselves. Well,
we've seen where it is and carried five
miles mind you. We did not know
even what day it was to be. No
one could have known it could have
been done."

"Well its certain no one could estimate
the strength of that twister and I
don't see as how we could either. It
sure was a strong one. Do you think any
other could compare to it?"

"Not exactly" Reuben said considering
it took that windmill out fit nearly
five miles before flinging itself
it off and around that barn.
Besides I don't believe the So. Salce
Press knows anything about it.
I don't make out half how the
tornado done it, but if I did its
no odds it could have pulled it
away from its lower part and
carried it off and as it did I
have two witnesses here who
saw it happen.

There are many survivors of
Southwestern Chesterbrown who saw
it happen. I've learned and would
have testified. But then theres no

3839 we talking about it its been carried off and we applied around Mr Seegres barn and there an end of it. Still it beats me altogether though so many witnesses saw what happened just as I found out myself. I would give all my share of what I possess to know how the tornado did it.

"I dont like it" one of the others said "I dont bless if I do, after whats happened no one in this part of the corn country will safe till they are well up in Chicago or other places. If we knew what that tornado was going to do there aint any reasons why another like that wouldnt come around".

"Why Johnson" I sneered "you dont really believe that tornado is a sort of conjurer do you?"

"I dont know" the man replied doggedly "after a tornado has turned up like this on - here I shouldnt be surprised at nothing not if I heard the sound of another one roaring up outside now".

There was a moments silence as each involuntarily listened.

listened.

"We are getting to be like a pack of little boys" I said savagely "and I agree with you the sooner we know more about this windmill situation the better".

"We still have to probe the windmill mystery for no one can give any opinion till we discover what cause the winter had taken to throw it around Seegres but Reuben says that it is a favorable symptom that the storm was so unusually strong and regular yet" I continued "I cannot any positive opinion. I cant find how the tornado wrapped it around the barn and I cannot tell for certain what cause it took to throw it, but I think judging from it is wrapped around the barn, and I may say from the way the barn stood the blow so well and was not demolished that no vital part of the structure was injured".

"We must not be too sanguine," said Barber "but there is certainly strong hope ground for hope the barn is really all right. It was flying with terrible force around the barn yet Simon Seegres has described his barn to me and therefore I shall be able to

3841 gave a more definite opinion
in the course of a few hours.
yet I can congratulate Mr.
Segres upon the fact that he
must have had the barn built
strong enough to resist the shock
of the thing being flung around
it.

"You see Mrs Donald" I said "I
shall have to be sending men out
to investigate that windmill wrapped
around Segres barn and may be
obliged to ride out in the middle of
the night after this meeting is
finally over, therefore you see an
absolute solving of that has to
be made. The Press I know will
want to know what is really
going on"

"You will not I hope take too
long about the mystery Mr Danger"
she said anxiously "I have been
too much taken up with the
results of the tornado to think
much about it, although my mother
keeps up bravely I know that
she is greatly shaken and
terribly anxious about that freak
occurrence. I don't know whether
she told you but it was father who
who was chief foreman of the

men who built up the 3842
structure and he is dreadful just
and not for what had happened
and my mother will ^{have} ^{have}
moments here or there ^{have}
we hear completely whether it is
really the structure unaffected
around the barn or not"

"Nor shall I" I said "I do not think
any tornado like that will come again
but with such type of lunatics it
would be rash to omit the smallest
precaution. You may be quite sure
Mrs Donald that in no case
was Segres barn unprotected. It
was not actually in the path of
the storm so you may be
perfectly assured that the barn
withstood the shock and wasn't
damaged, though the outfit is so
tightly wrapped around it that nothing
could remove it and because of it
even the barn couldn't be torn
down.

By it the barn is held too
firmly. But I cannot impress
too strongly upon you that
seeing the windmill freak
my story with whom we have
to deal your mother would
not stir outside the house until

3702
1843 she gets over her dread
of what you said you had
seen concerning that barn. It'll
be there always because it is
crushed so tightly that it could
not be removed even by strong
pulling machines.

Besides he won't have it removed
if it could be because now he is
making good Turkish business
for they have to pay to see
it. I will not tell her my-
self because I see that now the
strain is over she is greatly shaken
still and I would not add to our
anxiety, but if you could break it
do her as if it were your own idea
that she had better keep within
doors and not go near the barn
when home again until she gets
used to the sight I am sure that
it will be well."

"There's one thing maybe some
of you don't know" said Mrs Donald.
When that dreadful thing happened
there were sixty cows on each
side being milked by his employees.
The shock I heard from
knocked many off their stools, scared
scared the udders out of them
and put abject panic into their

own. As concerning themselves 3844
they rushed out of the barn to
see what had happened and it
is said they were the first to
see that and one of them notified
Mrs Seggie whose husband was in
Su Sale at the time.

She called her husband asking
if he will come right away. And
he wouldn't believe it. She was
sorely scared her brain went
blank. Yet he promised he would
come so right away and as soon as
he could get to Choptank from
from Su Sale he came into the
house bringing a doctor. Yet she gave
an account of what the employees
had seen and saw and of the
even circumstances which led to
its being around her barn.

He would have passed very
briefly over the statement but many
urgent requests from employees
coming up to him succeeded
in causing him to elude from
them all the details of the
event. So he went with them
to see for himself and observing
it thought for a moment that he
too was nuts and seeing them
things and asking the doctor to treat him also

3707
3845 There was a crowd of un injured
survivors among the caa right nears
around the barn. It was a strange
action of the tornado indeed. It
a wonder no one was hurt in
the barn

"To make things complete Mr Danger"
the professor remarked "you ought to
have taken photographs of the barn
with that outfit wrapped around it
and sent it to the press"

"Unfortunately you see" I said with
a smile "in the first place I was
too busy in the Relief Committee in
the next and much more important
place. I happened to be compelled to
combat two big wheat field fires
and I didn't have no camera"

"How was that Mr Danger?" the
professor asked "You've had a chance
even now. I can only account on the
supposition that the tornado left it
there for you to take a picture
of it."

"I fancy that windmill outfit was
there where it is now" I say rejoined
with a slight smile.

"Still in the right place around
the barn eh Mr Danger?"

"It will always be there. I
repeated quietly

"Do you think you'll solve 3846
the mystery how the tornado was
able to carry, while that big outfit
and then getting out of flying it
around his barn" was his next
question

"We will solve that sooner or later
I said "I will run the mystery
down if even its above ground but
I can take no steps in the matter
until it is unexpected more"

"My wife has been telling me
that immediately after it happened you
looked it over and that it was a most
finest incident somehow but she
wouldn't go into the matter. Curious isn't
it your meeting such an incident and
that too at such a moment"

"It is very curious" I said "what
people call a coincidence but many
people are mistaken in telling us
that the windmill outfit can be
removed saying that would be an
injustice. It's wrapped around the barn
so tight that it won't let it be
torn down. Mr Segre is one of the
kindest friends I ever had and
although his wife somewhat mis-
judged the windmill outfit and
her daughter maliciously shared her
feeling they were not in any

3762
3847 way to be blamed for
that for they only thought as
merry mine people out of a
hundred did. That windmill
outfit will be unappreciated
the town for good"

"And to think it should be that
windmill tower" the professor said
"how strange things turn out I do
remember I could not make up
my mind about it it seems so
strange either way"

"We had not better talk about
it now" I said quietly. "I said then
and I say it now that I knew the
twister did it, and strange as the
circumstances have already been you
may think them stranger still if I
bring the mystery before you alive
or dead"

"It's time we should be doing
something about that windmill outfit"
Reuben said. We settled the next
job should be this a probably even
coming the mystery about the freak
head whose protruding tongue was
the lower part of the tornado funnel
right along. We knew for certain
that the tornado generally had
super strength to carry such a
heavy object like that

outfit. That fellow Thompson 3848
who worked by the windmill tower
says he saw the twister wrench
it loose within thirty seconds and
wheel it away. But he is still in
the hospital here. Since this has
happened there's never been no certain-
ly about things. If it could be
said we owe this tornado for this
affair through Chester town and other
places which cost so many lives,
but we can't of course pay it out.
Who would have thought of one coming
and one like this one that afternoon
of August 15 Sunday. I swear if I
could do so I'd shoot it all to
pieces"

That tornado was no "weak one"
one of the members said "It gave
it to every place it struck hot
and no mistake. It was a different
sort of tornado than the others I
shan't feel comfortable
till we solve the windmill
mystery but how soon. With the
ferocity of the storm through the cities
and town the violence of the tornado
had increased minute from minute

The property of all the convents
had been been wiped out as
if actually confiscated and even

3849. the vast estates of the grandest
Churches are mere things of the
past or nothing at all. Everything
is declared at an end. If
storm can do to that monstrous
Con Sacred Heart Convent what it
did its nothing for it to carry that
huge windmill outfit and fling it
around the barn like a rope.

There is no estimating
the awful unmeasurable strength of
that tornado.

A decree had been passed abol-
ishing all titles as of estimating its
unbelievable force. This decree has
taken effect in Saballs and in
the great towns and also in some
parts of the country where the
passions of the people were most
aroused against the devastation
caused by the great cyclone. But
elsewhere so far it has remained
a dead letter.

This tornado had committed
devastation as far as it traveled
of the most sweeping description
assuming the most sovereign
power of hellish force and fury
the like of which was never
seen in cyclones before and
using it as not even the

strongest tornado before 3850
had even ventured to do. That
great Sacred Heart Convent, that
high Chesterton windmill tower,
that fifteen million dollar bridge across
the river were considered tornado
proof and they're more nothing a
thing of the past now.

What it could do to that mighty
convent, it could also do to that
immense windmill tower. It carried
it like frame work rope. Many
people are still shocked at this head
long course of events and shrink back
in dismay at the strange freak of
the windmill outfit and coiled around
the barn like a rope.

It seemed a general madness had
seized the tornado, but after what
it has done no nothing could be
done to arrest it. I have seen that
around his barn. The professor and
Simon Segner is resolved to do
nothing except let nature see it
on paying for the right of it. Other
wise the says let events take their
course and what that will be
heaven only knows. Yet the outfit
wrapped around the barn shows the
tornado had strength and violent fury
beyond all bounds at any rate.

3702
3851 Mr. Segue went to anything
at present led to wait. He
told me already numbers of
the people of Chesterbourn terrified
at the aspect of affairs accomplished
by the tornado have left Chesterbourn
for larger northern cities and I am
sorry to say many of the business
men and former factory owners
have also gone. This is cowardice
and treachery to Chesterbourn. This way
it can never recover. The Mayor of
our city of St. Salls is very indignant
at the great emigration of the
survivors of Chesterbourn that is young
on.

In the first place he holds that
they are deserting their once fair
city in the face of the first storm
when they should stay and re-
build it, and in the second place
by their assemblage across the state
and their intrigues into other far
distant cities they are causing the
people of other places to look
with suspicion upon the whole
class.

"Maybe though they can't be
blamed," declared Reuben. All
those who are emigrating are doing

so because they fear 3852
there might be another tornado
shortly and think it useless to
stay and rebuild, and find the sit-
uation intolerable.

This disaster caused by the storm
for its results constitutes a danger
to property all over the United
States. It also is a world disaster.
This tornado is the worst of all others
put together. It is a terrible killer
of orphans and didn't stick at nothing.

It was a ruthless and pitiless storm.
It was more dangerous than the howled
St. Louis tornado and Ormahan combined.

It hit the Gleason Asylum with the
 fury of a wild beast escaping from a
snare. It is simply venomous for
what it did to the Great Angel Guardian.
Guardian of - damage.

It raged with ungovernable fury when
it wiped out the Great Sacred Convent
causing the strange disappearance of the
full length of the upper three floors
and all its inmates. It reared the
tornado reared in slaughter. So
South some was the tornado. It
appears that I believe Old Mother
Nature shrank from it. It was worse
than a venomous reptile whom it

3707
3853 would be a pleasure to
stay as it would be to put one
heel on a saddle snake. Who
can find out about the habits of
a donado. The greatest mystery of
all is the Great Sacred Heart Convent
detruction. Will we can know
about that we cannot form any plan
what ever.

That beautiful large Convent
stood in the center of a most de-
lightful garden where the most
splendid trees ever seen and flowers,
shrubs and Sacred statues es-
pecially the great one of the Sacred
Heart stood on its marble pedestal
and also fountains abounded.
One could walk for hours
in this fascinating park and
see something most interesting
at every step.

In one place was an aquarium
where strange and beautiful
fish swam, at another spot all the
birds of the air gathered to
a great feast which the Convent
children provided for them
and were so fearless they of
harm that they would alight
upon one's shoulders and eat from
one's hand. Around the Convent

ground was a great iron 3854
picket fence beautifully designed
but the gates stood open and no
one was forbidden entrance.
On Sundays and all national and
Catholic holidays the people of Chester
often took their children even
on rainy days to see the wonders
of the Convent gardens and even
entered the monasteries and magnificent
convent if they felt so inclined for
they knew they and all the Sisters and
children were the best of friends and
that they delighted to give them pleas-
ure.

Then I had been in its most
beautiful chapel. It was as large
as the inside of a big Catholic Church
and it was more beautiful and
grand than anything I ever be held
beheld any where. The ceiling was
composed of great beautifully decorated
arches that rose far above my head
and all the walls were of polished
marble exquisitely tinted in many
colors. A long broad velvet carpet
covered the floor of the center aisle.

The long rows of seats and
traveling benches were made of raw
old wood and the entire chapel at
daytime was strangely lighted by

3855 a very intense glow that seemed to come from a particular place but flooded the chapel with its soft and pleasing red radiance.

There was a magnificent altar at the middle back of the great Sanctuary and two altars on each side. There was a brilliant and Sanctuary lamp hanging down from the ceiling in the center.

The Sacred Heart statue was to the left of the Sanctuary.

The four other altars consisted of St Michael, The Mother of God, St Joseph and the Holy Agony altar.

Pictures of St Michael were above his altar, overcoming Satan.

Above the Blessed Mother altar was the picture of her being crowned Queen of Heaven, the picture scene of the death of St Joseph with Christ sitting by his bed and the Mother of God.

On the left of the bed of the Holy Agony Altar it had no picture. The pictures were frescoed on the wall.

Great beautiful pictures representing the stations of the

cross were on both sides 3856 of the Chapel fourteen of them. The large windows had beautiful pictures of a few of the Sufferings of Christ and also of the betrayal of Judas. By the rear entrance of the chapel was an eighteen-foot cross with a seven-foot image of crucified Christ attached to it.

As a miracle from which was done to the building it escaped damage.

At the rear had large marble Holy water fountains. The chapel at night was brilliantly electrically lighted.

The altar had a dozen gold candles also that had ten branches for each. The building was so vast and noble and elegant. The gates were the most magnificent ever seen and near the front stood an immense Sacred Heart Statue on a marble pedestal.

Every child had four lovely rooms in the immense convent which were always reserved for their use. These consisted of a beautiful sitting room, a dressing room, a lady's bedchamber and a big bathroom.

And in these rooms were every thing that heart could desire, placed

385-7 There with the longing
thoughtfulness by their parents
or relatives for their use. The
Convent dress makers had
the measure of every of all the
children so they kept the closets
in their dressing rooms filled with
lovely dresses of every description
and suitable for every occasion
known off.

Here every thing that was dear
to a little girl or a boy heart was
supplied in profusion and nothing
so rich and beautiful could ever
be found in all the biggest de-
partment stores in all this United
States. In a way in beauty and
and everything the Gleason and
Angel Guardian Orphanage also almost
matched the Sacred Heart Convent.
He "what are they are more? Things
of the past were nothing like the things
new to that"

"There is another thing I will
have to say," exclaimed "that
in the people hoping still hoping
for news of their children who
were in the Convent. They are
still in the camps looking
on silently in sullen upathy.
The crowd still will not

move away. That great 3558
mass of people deprived of their
little loved ones are still remain-
ing in their camps. We have
told them from old Mother Nature
had no share in the destructive
bloody deeds of the awful storm
there had been the work of the
worst tornado on record, backed
by its worst winds ever known and so
hot.

Every one were still most honor
struck at what so violent a cyclone
had done all the way to New York
State. Even the murderous honor
of the Gleason, Angel Guardian
Orphanage and the Sacred Heart
Convent seemed indeed to be
the signal for every storm sur-
vivor and refugee of thought or
feeling and of heart to draw
back from the terrible so ravaged
by the air maelstroms.

Thousands of earnest men, women,
and children who never had thought
there could ever be such a horrid
visitation, and who had gone
heart and soul in the love of their
city Chesterbrown. So long since
shrank back appalled at the
most dreadful calamity that

3759 which had so fiercely sprung
into existence - even the nobles
and the clergy, many of whom
had loved this part of Illinois
had shrunk back appalled when they
saw what the Cyclone did.

Indeed especially what the cyclone
cyclone had done to the two asylums,
the convent and the giant super-
market was to stand forth in
the eyes of the whole world even
as a blood stained wind monster
the enemy not of people only
but of humanity in general also a
wholesale butcher of children."

One of the members said:
From an elevation of the ground near the
City of Charleston. I saw the storm acting
as if it had been long at for was with
mother nature and society hid head on
at the Southern limit like a train crash

It sounded like a howl of a mob
of wild beast who seemed to be the
products of that evil system of wind
suction which was so devastating

From the twister savage yells
and roar of vengeance filled the
air and the savage instincts of the
torrads were on fire.

What it did to the city passing
by before my view was horrible.

beyond description. 3860.
felt as if I were in a terrible
nightmare not that any night mare
can compare to this. I was wonder-
ing what can come of it in the future
when great Heavens I saw it seem to
turn the three upper stories of the Sacred
Heart Convent into a big cloud of dust
and debris and sweep it away I wondered
what is going to take place now as
the storm kept on rushing on with that
determination of the shroud before
it

What seemed incredible impossible
was taking place I know the
storm swept Charleston City its
full length and width extending
along the railroad tracks and the
river. The eastern part of the city con-
sisting of thirty two buildings in-
cluding the great St Michael University
and Church were out of the path
of the storm, but suffered severely
from all the debris thrown there by
the twister. It is here where Mrs
Negues barn is and received the
windmill around it

In passing by the storm had
crowded the debris before it
with ferocious yells from one
street after another the twister swept

3707
3861 with the most ~~crazy~~
crushing force I and another
man were on this high rise
of ground. But now we ~~could~~
could not hardly see what was
going on because of thick clouds
of dust, and on coming dense
darkness.

My companion stood immovable
his face as pale as death. His cap
had fallen off his hair was dark
with perspiration his eyes had
a look of concentrated horror.
His body shook with a spasmodic
shuddering.

In vain when I once saw what
was going to take place urged him
to leave. He did not appear to
hear above the shriek of the storm
and even when I pulled him by
the sleeve he seemed equally
unconscious. I was greatly alarmed
and feared that every moment
my companion would go into
a terrible outburst.

The ~~storm~~ ^{city} now being covered
by the storm was being located
between Turner Avenue south
of us and America street on
the northeast and from
twenty fourth street on the

on the south west to 3862
24th street on the west.
The street struck was the one
he lived on a terrible cry
which sounded loud even above the
tumult of the storm which signed
lowest from the main lips. He
threw himself with the fury of
a madman towards his street
and in a moment would have
bounded into the path of the
cyclone had not the turner flung
the fragmentary back of a leg
which hit him with all
the force it was flung on his
head.

It soon rebounded and struck me
too on the head but he fell like a
log under the blow I dragged him
back against a tree and then tried to
lift him.

"I will lend you a hand" a tall man
in the dress of a farmer who had been
standing next to me said and lifting
the injured man on to his shoulder
made his way down the hill
proceeding him.

"Thank you greatly" I said "I
do not know how I should have
managed without you and if you
find him down here I will try and

3867 bring him around,"
3867 I do not live far from here.
the man said to me "I will
take him to my farm house
a few acres from here you need not
be afraid." he added as I hesitated "I
have got my eyes open and you
can trust me fully."

Passing down a road the man
entered a large farm farmhouse
and carried the injured man up to
the second floor and laid him
on a bed in a very large room
then he carefully closed the
door and struck a light.

"That piece of chain struck him
awfully hard my friend" he
said as he examined the man's
head, I should not have liked
such a blow myself but a
better a hundred times a knock
on the head, than his rushing

himself into the path of that
awful cyclone, I had my eyes
on him and felt sure he would
do something rash and I had
intended to choke him but he
was too quick for me. The
tornado threw that at him just
in time to prevent him from
rushing into its path. How

can you be foolish to 3864
be there?"

"We had relatives in the path
of the storm and we thought
we might do something to save
them before it came up" I answered
for I saw that it would be my
best policy to be frank. "His home
where his wife children and parents
lived was in the path of the
cyclone."

"He said to me that I was
very rash for a two year old kid
ought as well try to save his or
her mother from the tiger who
has laid its paw upon her
as for you to try to attempt
to rescue any one from the
path of any cyclone. My heavens,
to think that in the early days
I was foolish enough to believe
no twister could ever hit
around here, but I seen my
mistake and now what are you
going to do?" he added to me.

"My wife is out but she will
probably be back soon will
attend to the young fellow. He
is a good nurse and I tell
you I think he will need all
we can do for him."

3865 "you you dont think the
back of the chain seriously
injured. turn I asked in a tone
of dismay and he answered
"no no dont make yourself an
easy that piece of chain has really
stunned him and thats all he will
soon get over that. I've seen men get
worse: knocks in a drunken row
and be at work again the next
morning."

But it's different here I saw
his face and he was pretty
nearly mad when that back of
the chain struck him I do not
believe he will be in his
right senses when he comes
around, but never fear we will
look after him well, you can
stay if you like but if you
want to go you can trust ~~us~~
him to us. I see you
can keep your head on spite
of what the tornado did and
will not run into danger like
he did."

"What did you do then?"
the Professor asked.

"I do want to go terribly"
I told him terribly and I feel
that I can trust you completely."

I hope we have saved his 3867
life. I will pay for his care
if you think he will want a
surgeon call him in and get
everything necessary for your house.
hold there is a hundred and fifty
dollars while you are taking care of
him you cannot go out to work
on your farm. I do not talk of
reward or kindness like yours
but while you are looking after
him you and your wife and children
must live"

"Agreed" the man said to me:
shaking me by the hand "you speak
like a man of heart I will
look after him. You need be under
no uneasiness. I should wish of my
farmer friends come in to visit him
me I shall say "his young
man got knocked down by the
back of an easy chair flung by
the passing tornado and whom
having nothing better to do
I have brought him here."

"If he should recover his senses
before I come back?" I then said
"Heard dont let him know what
struck him. He will be right
heart broken that he could not
share the fate of his"

3868 ft. of his wife children
and parents who I learned
that at the time of the storm
were not at home and escaped.

"all right that is easily very
easily managed" the man said
to me. John Marten is no fool.
Now you had best be off for I
see you are on thorns and leave
me to bother his head. If you
should come back you can depend
upon it I will look after him
till he is able to go about
again."

"What then?"

On leaving the injured
party in the care of the man
who had so providentially come
to my aid.

"What then?"

I hurried down what had been a
street then I stopped to think how
am I going to rescue the injured?
It still was so dark. The coming
number of snow was to do rescue
work with only lighted lanterns
was too great for me at
some territory and it seemed
clearly impossible to ask
them in the darkness of the
storm clouds in any way lantern

or not? I could get else 3869
where I might do something.

The persons who lived in the
terrible ^{terrible} districts missed
by the twister remained in their 31
houses trembling at the horror of the
tornado and what unbelievable
destruction it did.

The desperate work was now going
on and I wandered away to some
distance to avoid hearing the shrieks
of the many injured and pleading for
aid.

The next day I went back to the
house where I had left the wounded
man. I found him in a state of
delirium acting over and over
the scene during the mad rage
of the tornado cursing the tornado
and its consequences and saying out
he would die with his wife
children and parents.

I asked what the doctor thought
of his condition and the woman
who sat by his bed answered
that he did not say much only
shook his head and said there
was a terrible mental shock
and that she could not
answer either for his life
or reason. There was

3570 nothing to do but to be patient to keep his head bandaged with wet cloths and to give him brandy and water from time to time. He said to me do not be afraid for we will watch over him carefully."

"I would stay if I could" I said but I have to keep in the rescue work."

"Poor things poor things. The woman said to me shaking her head. It is terrible. My husband was telling me what he saw and a neighbor came in just now and said it was the same everywhere. Our priest too our priest at the little church where I used to go to mass and pray on my way to market he was dragged away from the fire wreckage this morning and now he is a saint in heaven. How is it that God allows such things to be?"

"I cannot tell" I said sadly. For myself I can hardly believe it though I saw it. They say there four thousand dead and injured amid the wreckage and it'll be three

days before half the numbers are freed. Such a thing was never heard of I can hardly believe that I am not in a dream now. Such a terrible thing is horrible."

"You look almost dead yourself" the woman said pityingly. "I have made a beef stew for my dinner and my husband and children. It is just ready. Do take a mouthful before you go out. That and rye bread and a cup of coffee will do you good."

I was on the point of refusing but I felt I was utterly worn out and exhausted and that I must keep up my strength. Her husband therefore took her place by Victor's bedside in readiness to hold him down should he try to get up in his rappings. While the good woman ladled out a basin of beef stew and placed it with a long loaf of rye bread and a coffee pot on the table. I forced myself to drink it and when I rose from the table I already felt the benefit of the meal.

"Thank you very much" I said. "I feel stronger now."

3872 I went out to aid in the rescue work and was sent to that part of the worst torn up section of the city where the demolished Sacred Heart Convent was. I never heard about what happened there until I got a night of it. I got there before the bloody work of liberating the dead and injured from the wreckage was over but found out on quick questioning those who were still desperately at work that the tornado devastated the upper part of the building and all in it except one man and child.

All the rest had disappeared as if vanished into thin air. A terrible number of children but had lost their lives at the Angel Guardian Orphanage. Possibly it may be have been the same at the Supermarket.

Without a word I turned away from the sight of the Convent I had told myself there was no hope but I knew by the bitter pang I felt now that I had hoped to the last. Then I walked away slowly to tell the news.

There were many rescue workers near the wreckage shambles

and these all working desperately. Of the 31 surviving buildings every shop was closed, old men and children stood with scared faces at some of the doors to gather the news of survivors and pale women looked timidly from the upper windows.

When I reached the house where there were none of those hoping to hear news of their loved ones at the Angel Guardian orphanage I could not summon courage to enter it but stood for a long time aside until at last I saw the Sand-lady Louise Manley put her head from the window.

It had been a bad thunderstorm all night and the storm was still on I succeeded in catching her eye and placing my finger on my lips signed to her to come down a minute later she appeared at the door.

"Is it true Mr Salowitch All true. They say so many are killed at the Angel Guardian Orphanage. Surely it must be false. Surely the tornado could never do such a thing there."

It is true Louise I have seen it myself. The orphanage is a

3814 perfect shambles their
parents and their parents parents
perished in that awful storm.
"Oh my dear Mother of God" the
old woman cried bursting into
tears "the pretty babe I nursed
to think of her killed by the
tornado and the poor young things
upstairs - what shall I do, what shall
I do Mrs. Solowith" you must break
it to them Louise. "Do they know the
orphanage is wiped out?"

"What then?" I asked him.

"No," she said to me "I didn't know
it either. They can see from the
window by the action of the re-
cue workers that something very
unusual is going on, every one
can see that. But I told them
they were freeing more injured
from the debris. They are anxious
very anxious but they are quite
unprepared for this."

"I said break it gradually
to them Louise. Tell them first
that there are rumors that the
Angel Guardian Orphanage was struck
by the cyclone and badly damaged.
Come down again presently as
if to get more news. Then
tell them that there are reports

that there are a great number 3875
of children killed there and
then at last tell them all the
truth. He asked me if I would
not come up saying they trust me
so much that my presence will
be a support for them. I told her
sadly I could do nothing now.
that God can only console them.
and that it was best for them to
be by themselves for a while. I told
her I would come on the very
evening.

The first burst of their grief will
be over by then and my talk
may aid them to rouse themselves.

Oh if this awful disaster never
had happened. And yet who
could have foreseen that here in
Chester town thousands of people
men women and crowd of
innocent children would be mur-
dered in cold blood, or frightfully
injured and crippled for life by
the most violent tornado on all
record."

"What then?" I again inquired.

Finding that she could not at
all persuade me to enter Louise
turned to perform her painful
duty while I completely exhausted

376 with yesterday's afternoon
of honor and hard difficult
rescue work made my way
home and throwing myself
on the bed fell asleep and did
not awake until evening.

My first movement was to
plunge my head into cold water
as the day had been hot on
spite of the heavy all day thunder-
storm and then after a good
wash to prepare a meal. My
sleep had restored my energy
and with brisk steps I made
my way through the short but
thoroughfare missed by the
violent storm to Squire Manley.
Mother of John Manley I knocked
with my knuckles at the outer
door of her apartment. The landlady
opened it quietly.

"What happened then asked
the professor.

She told me to come in and
sit down. She told me they were
in their room and believed they
have cried themselves to sleep.

She told me her heart had
been knocking all day to see
them. It had been dreadful.

Poor little Adair died most

3877
terribly and sobbed for
hours but it was a long time
before the others could. Mary
and I soon fainted and when I
got her around lay still and so
quiet without speaking and looking
so queer I became afraid and called
a doctor from La Salle.

Helen Linderson was word of all. She
sat on her chair with her eyes staring
open and her face as white as if
she were dead.

"She did not seem to hear anything
I said exclaimed Mrs Manley. But
at last when Adair sobb were
stopping and the doctor came to
attend Mary and I began talking
to her about her mother and her
bravely way when a little girl Helen
broke down and cried so wildly
that I her two sisters and the
doctor were frightened and then
Mary cried too and after a while
I and the doctor persuaded them
to all lie down and as I have not
heard a sound for the last hour
I hope the good God has sent them
all to sleep."

"I answered I trust so Squire
I told her I will remain there
quietly for an hour and then if

3878 we would hear nothing
I would go home and be
back again in the morning. I
I sleep will do more good
for them than anything I can
say. "Adam said of an hour all
was still quiet and I with a some-
what lightened heart took my
departure.

As it was only early evening
knowing where the orphanage was
I went to see how much damage
was done. I thought after half an
hour I went the wrong way. I
was I thought the regular street
but I saw no actual asylum
but something like a low wooden
wall and what looked like a
vast junk yard.

I went to an official direction
rescue work among the wreckage
on the other ~~side~~ and said "I'm
sorry to bother you but I'm looking
for the remains of the Angel
Guardian Orphanage. I'm on the
Relief Committee. Can you direct me
to the street it's on?"

"I'm sorry if I have to shock you"
he answered. "What's left of it is
over there" and he pointed to
the "vast junkyard."

What a funny feeling came
over me. I can't describe it. 3879
I sank down on some debris.
Later I must have lost my
senses for what ever happened to
me I found they had brought me
home.

I found out later that the whole
world looked on amazed and appalled
at what happened happened to the
convent and the Asylum and also
the supermarket. What could have
allowed the cyclone to march on its
bloody way with without a check
or turning off its course.

Or to destroy such strong
places as these the tornado must
have wildly raged with a blind
fury and violence that had
never been equalled.

At Eleven o'clock the next
morning I was again at the
house. When I came in
little Adrea ran to me and
throwing her arms around my
neck again burst into a passion
of tears. I felt that this was the
best thing that could have
happened for the others were
occupied for sometime in trying
to make her crying quietly.

3702
3796 to themselves as they did.
So at last her soul became
less violent "And no more danger
many said turning to me. "Will
you tell us all about it." I will tell
you" I answered that your father
mother and grandpa grandmother
and grandfather have actually dis-
appeared, and no one knows
whether they're killed or not too bad
they were working there at the time
more than that I cannot tell you
now.

Some day further on when you
can bear it I will tell you of
the events of the last forty-
eight hours. At present I myself
dare not think of it and it would
harm you to know it.

Do not I pray in ask me
any questions now. We must think
of the future. I am still sick for
what I seen last evening. I decided
to go to see how much damage
the storm did to the Orphanage.

I was on the right street but
lost at the moment thought I
was on the wrong one until
a rescue official told me
what I thought was a vast junk
yard is the remains of the

Orphanage. The information
prolapsed on and must 3881
have become unconscious for I
remember nothing more until I
came for and found my self lying
in bed with the official and
two men treating me."

Then what happened" I asked.
"I said to myself while they became
more like themselves. This is awful.
The Orphanage disengaged their parents
and grandparents mysteriously missing
so many of the children killed
more injured than and all the
employees killed or also mysteriously
missing these three girls with no one
to trust but me my people at
home in a frightful state of
murd about me.

It is awful to think of. It's
enough to drive a fellow out of
his senses." Then I decided to
go and see how the injured man
is going on. The doctor had told
me that he thought there was a
change for the better yesterday.
Poor fellow if he comes to his
senses I'll be glad to tell him his
parents were in So. Falls and
also when the storm hit
here. I went to the house and

3552 and as his nurse opened
the door to me I asked and
how is your patient to day.
He is ^{much} quieter. ^{much} quieter she
replied to me. I think he is too
weak to name any longer but he is
still the same. He lies with his eyes
open talking often to himself but
I cannot make out any word he
says. The doctor has been here this
morning and he thinks another three
days will decide. If he does not
take a turn he will probably die.
If he does he may live
but even then he may not get his
reason back. Poor young fellow
I feel for him almost as if he
were my son, and so does my
husband."

"Both of you are very good mothers"
I then said to her "and my friend
is fortunate very fortunate indeed
to have fallen in such good
hands. I will sit with him
for three or four hours now and
you had better go and get a
little fresh air."

"That I will do Mr. Dargen"
she answered "My husband
is asleep. He was up with
him all night and I had

a good night. He would \$883
have it so."

"I said just quite right but you
must not overdo anything or
knock yourself up. ~~mad as~~ You are too
useful to others for us to let you
do that. To morrow night I will
take my turn. I had a quiet night
of watching for Victor lay so still
that I several times did learn even
him to see if he was breathing. The
doctor had looked in late and said
that the crisis was at hand.

He said to me "To morrow your friend
will either sink or he will turn out
for the better. He is asleep now and
will probably sleep for many hours.

He may never awake again.
He may wake, recognize you for a
few minutes and then go off in a
last stupor. He may wake stronger
and with a chance of life. Here is
a draught that you may give him
as soon as he opens his eyes.
I now besides three or four spoon-
fuls of soup soup down his
throat and if he keeps awake do
the same every half an
hour.

"Well did the poor fellow
recover?" asked.

3884 "It was not until ten o'clock in the morning that Victor opened his eyes. He then looked vaguely around the room but as they finally turned to me, there was no look of recognition but they had lost their wild expression they had worn while he lay there and I felt renewed hope as he lifted his head and poured the draught between his lips.

Then I gave him a few spoonfuls of soup and was fully satisfied of seeing his eyes close again and his breathing become more and more regular. The doctor when he came in and felt Victor's pulse nodded approval.

The fever has quite left him," he said to me "I believe he will recover now. It will be slow, very slow and I think he will regain his strength but as to his mind of that I cannot say anything at present." Again I came to take my place on the floor by Victor's bedside. Victor was better the bandage around his head had been removed and he no longer was

unconscious and followed 3885- with his eyes the movements of those in the room. Once he said "Where am I?" but the answer you are with friends you have been ill "you shall hear all about it when you get stronger" had apparently satisfied him as he looked with doubtful recognition. He seemed to remember my face but to have no further idea about it and even when I said cheerfully "Do you remember your friend Harry Donohue?" he had shaken his head in feeble negative.

I expect it all will come back to him Jack Manley said as he gets stronger "and after all it is much better that he should not remember anything at present. It will be quite time enough for that when he is better able to stand it." I answered that I agree with him ~~there~~ there and that I am really glad that he did not remember me for had he done so the past night he would have come back at once and feeble as he is that would have completely knocked him over."

3707
I went each day to see my friend who have been a nearly a week passing through a terrible fever now lay weak and apparently unconscious. He is a blank of the past and present his mind completely gone but yet the told me that in this respect he did not think the case was hopeless. He told me that his strength seemed to have absolutely deserted him and that his mind is a blank like that of a little child but by no means despair of his gradual recovery and that if he could hear the voice of his mother it might strike a chord now lying dormant and set the brain to work again.

Again the next evening I called to see how Victor was getting on. He was gaining strength but his brain appeared to make far less progress than his bodily health. I began to fear that the back of the chair had hit him hard enough enough to cause a concussion of the brain. It is said no one recovers from that unless he get a powerful shock of the same force. He still did not at all

3887
recognizing me in the least and although he would answer questions that were asked him his mind appeared in a blank as in the past and he often would lay for hours without speaking a word.

There were two building officials Henry Danton and Michael Jacobini as I had learned were determined upon having the remains of the Sacred Heart Convent torn down or blown up. The debate had commenced thirty six hours after the storm.

Malachukles Monchet and Derese defended the convent fearlessly and eloquently but it seemed useless. The Convent was condemned before hand. George Henry Robespierre and Hank John Marat led the assault.

Officials called the General Building Committee stood not neutral but on the afternoon of the 16 of August the question was put to the Building demolishing Assembly. To the ruins of what is left of the Sacred Heart Convent too dangerous for the general safety of the territory.

With scarcely a single exception the Assembly returned a

3888 a very affirmative answer and on that evening the final vote was taken 1361 voted for demolition, two thousand for slow wrecking, two thousand two hundred and ninety eight for detention, banishment or conditional destruction but after a delay twenty six hundred for demolition but with a wish that the Assembly should reverse the sentence.

Sentence of demolition was pronounced after a sitting which lasted six hours more from early evening of 7 P.M. to midnight there was another struggle between the advocates of delay and those of instant demolition, but the latter won.

"Well what about it?"
"It's still there. You ^{commute} ~~commit~~ suicide going near the convent ruins. ~~by~~ ^{by} hand, twelve sticks at once won't even crack what's left of its walls and you can't approach within one hundred feet of it, with safety."

Every one looked on amazed and astonished at this resistance of the convent walls for it shows the ruins though exceedingly dangerous, are yet too strong to be unduly

strewn its host to resist all 3889 extremes attempts to demolish it. It's strange then why it could not resist the tornado ^{so} suddenly gave way to it. The disappearance of three quarters of it and all the inmates except two from outside conditions which allowed such an immeasurable tornado to march on its bloody way without a check.

"It is the people, the nobles, the parents, grandparents and all other relations whose children so mysteriously disappeared who have reason to complain for it was the tornado most excessive force which left the convent at the mercy of so terrible a wind storm. The convent had been the strongest of all built buildings that the tornado so terribly disintegrated."

"I can probably explain that," I said. "How, Mr. Danger?"

"That convent was five stories high over a block and three quarters long and a block wide. You know yourselves from experience that the bigger the building with path of a tornado the worse it will get it. The storm has then too tight a grasp on it. So with the convent. And also it was an isolated building and totally exposed."

3702 2
1890 The trial and attempted demolition of the convent had at least the good effect of diverting the minds of many and Virginia from their own anxieties. Mary was passionate and Virginia tearful in their sorrow and indignation over the fact such a building could not be demolished. Over and over again Mary implored me to try to let them go near the convent to see its shambles.

There was still many house wreckers and indeed the bulk of the ruinous of the Chesterbourn horror, were shocked and alarmed by the violence of the tornado disaster and

Mary urged that I might from my connection with Robespierre the leading building demolition Committee obtain some power or document which would enable them to approach the Convent ruins. But I refused to make any attempt to do so.

I said to Mary "In the first place it would be impossible for us to go near the wreck without endangering our lives and no pass or permit that even Chief Committee Head Mr. Dargen could give would be of the

smallest utility. You must 3891 remember that although all apparently unite against the ruined convent there is still a never ending struggle going on in the Convention between the various parties and the various parties over the fact if the ruins can resist the most powerful explosives for its demolition how could it not resist the terrific storm. Committee Robespierre is but one of them although perhaps the most prominent but could I bring a pass from him, or Chief Committee Dargen if only to see the Convent shambles that pass under no conditions would be respected.

In the next place Mary we have nothing to do with what the storm did to the Sacred Heart Convent. I am staying here in Chesterbourn to do all I can to watch over you and Virginia for the sake of your dear parents who as I and you joyfully now know were not in the Angel Guardian Archangel at the time of the storm but in the Southside of Salsbelle on a two weeks vacation. And also because I love both you children and I have

3892 also if possible to solve the
mystery of how the cyclone
disintegrated the upper three
floors of the convent. If the full
weight of the blocks of the main
responsibility is heavy enough and
by merely using Robert's name
Mr. Dangers name go near that now
dangerous 'ship wreck' of a building I would
not do it if the act in the slightest
degree interfered with my freedom
of action towards you and Jane."

"But nearly all were killed in
the Asylum which was also disinte-
grated," Mary said passionately.

"Unusually true Mary," I replied
calmly. "So many of them dying
killed or injured would in no
respect benefit the strange and
mystifying of the disintegrated
Convent, and as your life is in my
eyes of a thousand times more
consequence than that of the Convent
Asylum or Supermarket or even the
Gleason Bapthage and as your chances
of safety to some extent depend
upon mine I do not mean to risk
one of those chances for the sake
of going within one hundred feet
of the ruins of either shambles or
building. Remember what

3893
happened to ten of those
vandals who went into the raging
wreck of the Rectory near the convent.
It took a week to free their bodies
from the debris that crashed down and
buried them deep under it. Besides to tell
you the truth I have a good strong liking
for my own life and have a strong
marked objection to putting myself
under a goodly pile of fallen down
wreckage. You also see I have father
mother and three darling sisters at
home who are especially fond of
me and who want to see me back
safe again with them."

"What then?" I again asked. "Your
details is giving me shivers up and down
my spine."

"She then said to me I know Henry
I know," her eyes were full of tears.
"Do not think that I am ingrateful
because I talk so. I am always think-
ing how wrong it is that you
should be staying here risking
your life for us in defiance of
the results of the awful tornado and
its consequences for us instead of
going home to those who love you
and are worrying so much about
your safety because they can get no
news because of destroyed communications."

38.94 and Mary burst into tears.
 38.94 "My dear Mary" I said soothingly
 do not worry about me. It would
 have been just as dangerous at the
 time the tornado disintegrated like

Convent for me to have tried to escape
 from the town during the storm as it
 was to stay here — in fact I should
 say that it was a good deal more
 dangerous and at present if we keep
 away from those disintegrated buildings
 we will be in no danger at all.

As to what I have done for you
 as far as I see I have done nothing
 beyond bringing you here in the
 first place and coming to have a
 pleasant chat with you every even-
 ing. Now with the best will in
 the world have I been of the
 slightest assistance to Victor.

As they say at home my in-
 tentions are good but so far the
 intentions have borne no fruit
 what even when the tornado threw me
 that back of the chair at him it
 must have flying it swift and
 hard. Come Mary please dry your
 eyes for it is not often that I
 have seen you cry. We have
 thrown in our lot together
 despite all the wide open road

hellish "honor" if accomplished ~~38.95~~
 and we shall swim or sink in 38.95
 company. You keep up my spirits and
 I keep up yours."

He with a great effort recovered her
 composure. Then still but little change
 had taken place in Victor Henry's
 condition. He remained in a state almost
 of lethargy with an expression of
 dull hopelessness on his face some
 times he passed his head wearily
 across his forehead as if he were trying
 to recollect something he had lost. He
 is still too weak to stand but Jack
 and his wife would dress him and
 place him on a couch which I had
 purchased for his use.

The worthy couple said to me
 that the back of the chair must have
 had hit him an awful wallop as the
 wound on his head was very slow
 to heal. He at eight o'clock that
 evening as I was at Souse Manley.
 "What is it Harry?" Mary exclaimed as I
 entered "I can see you have news what
 is it? I have news" I said "and good
 very good news but you must not
 excite yourselves? Since it was
 finally reported that the loss of our
 parents was mistaken as they really are

3702
39 3546 So Sally? Yes? replied you
need have no fear. They will
certainly come here. Then the
two girls stood motionless motion-
less with delight. It never occurred to
us to doubt my words when I spoke
so confidently.

Then she said Have you told us
all Harry and she looked earnestly
into my face Can it be true they
really here in La Salle? Yes. I
said. I think God dears you is over us
and grandparents are in La Salle
down town. It was misinformation that
they were dead.

With a cry of delight Virginia sprang
to him and throwing her arms around
his neck and kissed him in the ex-
citement of her happiness. Then
she threw her apron over
her head and burst into tears
of thankfulness while Mary put
her hand on his shoulder and said

Oh Harry how can we ever
thank you enough for all you have
done for us?

It was some little time before
the little girls were sufficiently
composed to listen to my story.
But why did you not bring
them here Harry? Virginia

asked me Why did you
take them some where else?
I didn't I answered. They're right in
this house? and to see them right
away.

Oh Harry how good you are How much
you have done for us. But how is poor
Victor Oh Harry do not say he is dead.
He is not dead Mary but he has
been very ill. He was with me a block
south of the awful tornado then tearing
through Chester Brown on that terrible
after noon and flinging it off from itself
it threw the back of a chair at his
head with great speed. The shock nearly
killed him. He has had brain
fever and has been at death door.
At present he is mending
but very very slowly.

He knows no one not even me
but if I could only find his mother
Her presence I'm sure will do wonders
for him. He is at present a mere
wreck so changed that you will
hardly know him. He is out of
danger now and he is progress-
ing. It is his mind more than
his body that needs curing. It
may be a long and difficult
task. Mary before she is him
self again but I believe that with

3898 his mother's care and companionship he will get round in time, but it may be months before then. The meeting between the two little girls was a happy one, and no word was spoken.

"Then what?" the professor demanded.

"Of the Sacred Heart Convent the terror was universal. The fact that so much of it and the children, nuns and employes mysteriously disappeared, though heightened the dismay, it might as well have been a haunted house the way people avoided it."

The massacre of all those innocent children in Chesterbourn and so many people was now known all over the United States. Even the bravest ruffians in all the nearest towns were now awestruck, avoiding Chesterbourn because of even their fear of the Convent. Every man, even distrustful the very neighborhood and fear caused those who went, loathed and hated the ruins to be loud in their complaints against God the cause of the bloody disaster.

My efforts to make some acquaintance among the poor to get some information met with very slight success (and only I asked replied kindly

indeed but with embarrassment and restraint and although any questions of a general character were really answered, a profound ignorance was manifested upon the subject upon which I wished to gain information.

I began to feel almost crushed under my responsibilities. The tornado had hastened on the work of extermination of all children and the upshot was my attendance at the Relief Committee tried me greatly. I made no progress whatever in my efforts to find out why so many now have such terror of the Convent ruins.

The terrible events of its mysterious destruction and the long strain of anxiety of the crowd still remaining of hopes for news of their loved ones and the awful and strange fate of all its inmates had completely exhausted the strength of many of them and the last six days had aged them as many years and forced many into the

4000 " university building hospital.
I had tried to keep up my
spirit of hopefulness and to
cheer the two young ten and
eleven year old girls but Mary's
quick eye speedily perceived the
change in me.

"You are wearing yourself out Harry over
the mysteries of that convent" she said
that evening as we were sitting on the
porch to get cooled off as it was a hot
day. "I can see it in your face. It
is of no use your trying to deceive
me. You tell us every hour that
you hope soon to find out why so
many why from even the territory of
the Convent but I know that in
reality you are making no progress.

All these days since the storm when
we were so hoping for some news
from the angel Guardian on springs
though it seemed next to impossible
yet you told us not to despair and I
knew you did not despair yourself
but now it's different.

Despite their fears and what
they say I do not believe the
Convent is haunted. Yet I do
never feel that in your heart
you almost give up hope about
the wreck. Why don't you trust

me. Harry Harry I'm 4001
not afraid of the place. I may
not be able to do much but
I might be able to solve the mystery.
I'm not afraid of the building because
they saw ghosts of the missing children?
You have been about there all this
time. Surely it is time I took my
turn even if I am still a young
child."

"I feel like one just at present"
I said unsteadily with quivering lips.
I feel sometimes as if — as we say at
school — I could cry for two pence.
Has not the tornado spoiled our market
by killing all our best cut customers?
And how are all us survivors to earn
our living? I'd like to know with the
wiping out of our huge supermarket.
I know Mary I can trust you, but
don't go too near and it is not
because I doubted your courage that I
have not told you exactly how
things are going. I'm sure it will
be a relief to me to tell you
exactly how we stand. I
then told her how complete
I had failed to get information
whether the Convent is haunted
by the missing children or not.

4002 and how an actual feeling
of honor against the place
had risen. "I think I could have
stood that Mary, but it is the terrible
sight of the Angel Guardian Orphanage
Orphanage & dream of the tornado
tearing up the place and it is so
awful hearing in my dreams their
terrifying shrieks and screams and
of the injured that at times I almost
believed believed it too is haunted
like the Convent?"

"It must be dreadful Harry," Mary
said nothingly. "Will it not be at
all possible for you to have the
authorities of the Relief Committee have
those places investigated?" I am sure
you could do so for that for
anything as to the belief of
of the superstitious people of those
places being haunted do not let
that worry you.
"Even if you could hear of that
being proved at present it would
be of no use, I couldn't be
afraid even though things would
seem to me to be getting worse
and worse, and Mr. Dargen you
called in three days ago thinks
so too. I can see see it in his

face. I know he is a good 4003
man though he is the Chief
head of the Committee. The woman
whose last night injured child I sat up
with last night tells me everybody
among the survivors all love him. He
did wonders for everybody. I am he
guesses that all things are not what it
seems. He said this morning to me,
"I cannot do much about these two.
It is a general breakup. We are
staunch Catholics and nothing can
make us believe that ghost business
unless it is completely proven but
I and others with me really
seeing the hauntings ourselves.
Do not worry yourself with
such thrashy reports child."
"At any rate you see we cannot
think of letting the matter go. It
is quite impossible for us to give
it up now so do not let that
worry you. There may be something
strange about the two places but
I do not myself believe there
are ghosts of the children there so
do not let that worry you. We
are all in God's hands Harry and
we must wait patiently what
He may send us."
"We will wait patiently," I said.

4004 I feel much better now
Mary and you shall not see
me give way again. What has
been worrying the most is
the thought that it would be wiser
to have carried out some other
plan to have investigated how the
tornado devastated the upper
section of the convent and the mystery
of the missing children and all the
other and the nuns after the storm
blew over.

"What then?" I asked again.

"You must never think that" Mary
said earnestly "You know we all
talked it over dozens of times Souze
and all of us and we agreed that
that this was our best chance
and our parents thought so too.

No one only God can solve this
mystery so what ever comes you
must not blame yourself on the
slightest. Whenever we were near the
two places and were in danger
and might have been injured if
we were close. Bah they're not haunted.
In the imagination of all those who are
superstitious."

I arranged it all. Mary? I have
the responsibility of us having been
near there."

And to an equal extent you
would have had the responsibility
of our being any where else. So it is
of no use letting that trouble you. Now as
to the convent itself you know I have
made the acquaintance of some or all of
the Sisters of the St Ann Catholic
school missed by the storm.

It is one of the thirty-one buildings
not in its path. Some of them
know about the convent before the
storm and possibly through them
I may be able to hear about who
were in it before that awful
cyclone struck it. At any rate I could
try.

Perhaps you could. Mary's last
be very very careful what questions
you put on those Sisters might be
offended" She answered. "I don't
think there is much fear of that
Harry. The Religious Women are
more outspoken than Religious
Brothers. Most of them are with
the what you call the investigators
but it is clear that others are quite
the other way. I think they could
tell many things. You see because
of the devastation & by the tornado
all type of trade has been stopped.

4006 and there is still great suffering among the survivors and their families. We learned to be quite a little from seeing Mrs Manley at work and I take them to those who are very poor especially if they have children who have been injured and I think I have won some of their hearts. Yet there could be got together eight hundred men to investigate the three places.

As to the prospects of investigating the three places I did not feel sanguine. Too many persons were off them. However as a last resort this might be attempted. Yet I knew no one as a body would not join in the attempt.

I can hardly blame them. Henry said Mr Manley. For though I myself would risk everything and some of the others would do so too it is a terrible thing for men with wives and families to brave the dangers of those ruins. It is the supposed phantoms of the dead children though the odds are heavy against us but its the horrors of the Convent ruins we dare not go near to. I began to feel almost crushed under my responsibilities.

My attendance 4007
at the Relief Committee had tried me most greatly as so many "Gliners & Wists" came so continually for assistance food clothing and so on. We made no progress whatever in our work and drafted men and women to help us. And to add to our troubles the old women whom we had rescued from the supermarket tear up instead of gaining strength appeared to be losing it rapidly and was still laid up.

The terrible events in Chester brown the many hours it took to release or rescue her from the shambles and the long strain of anxiety as to the safety of the girls and the fates of all in the Orphanage and the downgraded Convent had completely exhausted the badly injured women's strength and the last two days had aged her as many years. I tried hard most hard to keep up my appearance of hopefulness and to cheer the girls but Mary's quick eye speedily perceived the change in me and had Mrs Manley make me stay home to rest.

3707
4008 What happened then?

She said 'it must be very dreadful. I am sure it will not be possible for you to give out that you are ill and so abscond yourself from their meetings and relief work, for a time I am sure you are all ill enough for anything.

As to the members of the Relief Committee do not let that even bother you. Even if you could hear of a chance to see whether the shambles of the Convent are haunted or not at present it would be of no use. I couldn't leave this poor injured and sick woman, she seems to me to be getting worse and worse and the doctor you called in three days ago thinks so too. It is a wonder she even survived at that, when it took the rescuers thirty six hours to free her from the shambles of what was left of her home. I can see it by his face. The woman whose badly injured child I sat up with last night tells me that all the survivors all love him. I am sure he

4009
guesses all aint what it seems, He said this morning to me - I cannot do much for the poor old lady. Not only is it a general breakup but her injuries I fear are mortal. I have many cases like it of many injured persons who added to their internal injuries the anxiety of the times after the storm. I have never before seen such horrible injuries among so many.

This storm was a very cruel one indeed. Such fierce winds it didn't last much longer. Do not worry with watching child. She will sleep quietly and will not need attendance. If you don't mind I shall have you on my hands. Anxiety affects the young as well as the old. At any rate you see we cannot think of leaving here to go to look at the convent ruins at present. It is also quite impossible to leave the injured woman now so don't let that worry you. We are all in Gods hands. Harry and we must wait patiently what he may send us. Luckily you see we escaped the winter.

4010. We will have to wait patiently, I said. "I feel better now Mary, and you shall not see me give way again." The next day the old injured woman quietly passed away. She was buried to our great grief without any religious ceremony for the priests who were not killed were laid up with serious injuries or badly crippled.

The day after the woman was buried a member of the Committee came to me and there was a white scared look upon his face which filled me with alarm.

"What is it John? What did happen?" he answered "I am hardly able to tell and he spoke in a low awe struck stricken voice. "It is too awful even for this tornado." "What is it John? Tell me. If they have really been vanishing into nothingness..."

"I will go straight to the Committee and report the fact to Washington. There is not yet any proof of it yet," John said to me. "But it is feared there is and for everybody else" and the Committee must meet.

down and cried like a 4011 child. At last to my entreaties he raised his head and told the story. The search force had combed the country in the path of the tornado as far as the Kanabakee river and found no trace of any one or fragments of the convent. Everything must have actually vanished.

"I gave a cry of horror in which the others joined some pouring out voluble curses against the tornado and heaven itself after my first cry I was silent and had sunk down on to a low chair and sat there with my face hidden in my hands for a few minutes while the others poured questions upon John."

Presently I arose to my feet and saying to John "Do not go away I shall be back soon, I have something to think over went out side bareheaded in the hot sun. In less than half a hour I came back in.

"Now John," I said. "I can't think again. Now how can that awful astonishing mystery be solved?"

4012 I cannot say Harry "John said to me with some hesitation 'Surely it does not seem to me -'"

"That mystery has to ~~me~~ be solved at any cost" I interrupted him in a grave steady voice. "But the question is how." "Yes Harry" I then agreed hesitatingly "that is the real question. 'How they and the upper part of the great convent vanished. You can rely upon me.'" he went on to do my best what ever you decide, but I have no head to invent things, you tell me and I will do it."

"I know I can rely upon you John. As far as I can see there are two ways. One is for me to go to the mayor's house find if he is in, bid him to order some men to come with us near the convent and order them to look over the convent in inspection stand with him till they come back and then by auto follow the course of the storm or also follow down the road beside the river and put to the path the tornado took."

And then what Harry "John 4013 asked me after pausing for a while seeing that it seemed that I might have been speaking to myself rather than to him."

"Yes that is the question that I cannot answer I replied. 'I can see all the rest as if it were passing I can feel the mayor slightly trembling as we take the risk of going near there and shuddering at the sight of the foreboding remarkable ruins.'"

I can hear him giving his orders I can see the curious anxious crowd falling back as I walk with him among the wreck strewn streets I can hear him crying to the people to stand aside and let us pass. I can see us going towards the disintegrated building together but what am I to do with the two ladies when we are at the convent?"

"Do they propose to go too?" "Yes" I said. "Could you not get around to the east of the wreck?" John exclaimed carried away by the picture which I seemed to be describing as if he saw it. "Why not start around to its east side at once. I might have all

4014 in readiness to climb the
staunch ladder up to what is
left to the Chapel and the men
will stand by and help you
and when we are once on the chapel
floor we may discover some cause
as why above the tornado threw
everything as you might say
gone with the wind."

"Thank you John" I said "If the
other plans seem impossible we
will try that but only as a last
resource, for I know the chances
are a hundred to one against
its success as the wreck is ex-
tremely dangerous at any section.
I should have no fear of the
wrecked Chapel shambles but as
I go across its floor some of it
might give way beneath me, if
I could get other wreckage across
what is left of the floor it would
be different."

"You could go with me
I would force our way into the
chapel you could take the
planks there I'd place them
across the floor then I may
guess how by investigating
the storm obliterated the

upper part and all with 4015
it. But I'm afraid there
would be no chance of finding
this out God's help. I'm fearful
the Convent suffered actual and
full assassination."

"And what is Harry's other plan?"
"The other plan is to get into
what is left of the Sacristy? Sacristy
in which they usually placed for
mass preparation the altar boys
you might find out which it is
from Sister Mary Clare who is in
the University turned hospital
ward investigate from there
until we find out something then
join the Committee and when we
do find out something go to the
Relief Committee. Beware till we can
prove things when Committee official
Robert Pierre can come there again
and pick up more clues."

"They say there is danger of
caves in in both Sacristy
that there is death in each side
of that place behind the altar."

John said despondently "The
wreckage will come in on any one
who may try to enter the
Sacristy. But there may not

4016 be any who would even try to get in there. It would not be worth while to try to solve the mystery of the disappearance of the children, nuns and employees that way. Nothing was seen as the storm passed on. All who searched along the full course of the storm found nothing. If they had been flung in the streams their heads would be seen as they drifted down."

"Yes but we must think of something John," I said. "Think man think and you Robespierre think if you were in the ruined chapel and you wanted something which would keep you on the mystery what would you do?"

"What then Harry?" I pursued. "John said: 'But you would take an awful chance on anything up there. You climbed on Harry."

"But we need not climb the wreckage," I said. "I only want something to get to the chapel floor."

"A long step ladder might do," Robespierre said.

"The very thing," I exclaimed

with a fresh ring of 4017 animation and hopeful ness in my voice. "The very thing of course there would be such a ladder

at some place and the horses missed by the cyclone. We might the loan of one from Simon. Degree so we could climb up safely. What length of ladder would we need?"

"Some like twenty or thirty feet Harry." "That will not be enough for where I have to climb because the east wall is higher than that. Four feet more is enough. Is that wall strong enough to withstand the pressure of the ladder against it?"

"I do not think so Harry Robespierre said with a shake of the head. "It might collapse if anything is placed against it."

"But see here Harry," John said eagerly to me. "I have an idea. The upper edge of the wrecked wall is covered with tarpaulin though where it came from is a mystery. If you could get over the edge of the wall with the help of that and get into the east rooming

4018 where you might cut away
all the loose type of wreckage
underneath the shambles, and
with stronger boards prop it up
so that none of it will crash
down."

"I will try it" I said. "There is
a chance of success."

"It is a terrible most terrible
Risk" Harry Roberpierre said
despondently.

"I know it" I replied. "But it is
just possible. The chances are a
hundred to one against it, but it
may succeed. Well Roberpierre
do be with your scientists on the
street the convent is on below the
point where it can be seen. If
we can't discover anything about
the children nuns and others
you let the Commission know
about it. If they did not really
disappear well and good. If
they did."

"If they really did" one of the
men said solemnly. "We will
pray and have masses
said for their souls."

"John will send down to you
as soon as possible the two

little girls Mary and Virginia as they know a whole
lot about this convent. Have
some brandy in the car and
your little charcoal stove and
keep the water boiling. We will all
want it for our purpose.

Now John let us hasten to
what was once Chesterdown for
there is much to be done and
first of all you must see the
Sister Superior of St Joseph's
School, which was not in the
path of the storm and find
out how many were in the
convent before the tornado hit.

I have no doubt they will be
able to give us proper information
for after the tragedy there has been
about them they may be sure to have
been the ones to surely mysteriously
disappear. But above all
find out about what floor they
were on if you can as I heard
it was the banquet hall."

"But if I cannot find out
Harry if there had been no
arrangement at all made at
all though I think there
might have been for if there

the Committee

4020 though I think there would have, if there was going to be a banquet for the Sisters would have liked to have everything done in order -

"Then I will get you to get a dozen investigators from Chief Committee Mr. Dinger you can trust to volunteer to go as near as possible to the east side to investigate what is left of the upper floor and you must be sure to go to the east not the west side"

"I will try" John then said "though I would rather cut off my hand than see such a tragedy repeated. But I will do it Harry. But for that I warrant me they will not get a man to go near the ruins of the Convent after the tornado's accursed work"

It was three o'clock when when we arrived at Chester Brown's or what the tornado left of it. John went straight to St. Joseph's school while I walked along the wreck strewn street. When I came almost of Center street a number of workers were standing talking and how

tones and looking with 4021 horror at the remains of the Sacred Heart Convent across the street. A number of men were painting the barricade white while a strong number of onlookers were drawn up near by from curiosity. These did not indeed venture to express openly their derision of the tornado's recent proceedings but the muttered execrations and curses that arose from the little group showed how deep were their feelings.

"Then?" I asked

"I joined a little knot of three or four men who had been with John in the habit of greeting me when I came

"All is lost you see" one of them said to me in a word of deep commiseration. "There is nothing left of the convent, only of what you see the tornado took all the rest away that awful day, but that is a poor consolation for you now. This mystery will never be solved. The storm struck with a vengeance that nothing can compare."

4022 "All is not quite lost?"
said "I have yet one hope."
"We dare not try to force
our way into that wreck" one of
the other men said. "They say
there's regiments of ghostly
children in the upper ruin. What
can we do against them with
Holy water or other sacramentals
when they may not be lost
souls? I could cry to think that
we are so helpless in the face of
those things."

"No I know force is useless
and even suicide," I said. "And I
don't believe about this ghost
business without myself seeing
them. Still I have just one hope
left. It is a desperate one and I
cannot tell you what it is now
but this afternoon maybe John
Hahn may ask you to help us.
I expect him here soon."

In half an hour John returned
and I at once joined him.
"I've got the news I wanted,"
he told me. "There were twenty
five hundred children in
the place. There were thirty
nuns and 14 nurse attendants."

There were five floor 4023
janitors three chapel attend-
ants and two priests who were
the main heads of the convent,
one the main chaplain and his
assistant. They were all blown away
from the building at the beginning
of a big banquet.

This whole territory is now ever-
afterward accursed and no one
even those sisters of the school will
even put a foot near the building
for they too fear it is haunted by the
ghosts of the children.

Autos have been already brought
out to bring daring rascals to
the "shipwreck" as it shapes and
men hired to inspect the convent
at a safe distance. They were forced
to buy the cars for not a owner
would let his machine for
such a purpose. It would be
accursed ever afterwards no man
would ever put a foot in it.

The first inspectors will go
within sight of the wreckage on
the sight then they will come
back and take the next batch
out near its east side and so on
until all the inspectors are there.

3177
4 "There will be fifty come
4024 near each section, and I
hear Harry that it is only
the first of it and that the inves-
tigation will go on until they
can find out how the tornado did
it to the convent. The main astonish-
ment and distressing incident is
also the twelve famous little child
singers."

"Thank God we know that much
John. The mother of some of them
is out of her mind because of
her loss, now in the first place
I want you to get me some tools:
a sharp saw a chisel a large
screwdriver and a dozen large screws
also two beams of wood, to
fasten across what had been a
roof and keep the boards up after
put them into place also I want
two bundles of cork flat
pieces. will be the best if you can
get them. But I don't think that
matters much. I may as well
have an ax too. When you go
back to your house will you
go to Simon's drug emergency
hospital and ask the injured
Mrs. Delevan?"

4025
"She died three days ago
of her injuries" John said.
"Every one dying" I thought
to myself bitterly why didn't the
tornado kill the devil while it
was at it? I added then go into the
house u Barn with Mr Segress
permission and her husband also
wounded will give you a bag of
money really belonging to me.
I fail to know keep it for
yourself if I succeed bring it to
me at Robespierre When does the
hunt throughout the country re-
new for the missing ones?"

"The search is still going on
day and night Harry. I have already
rounded the chief official conducting
the search and I think he will
not give up for two weeks yet.
'And what shall I do next?'"

At five o'clock this evening
have your car with the things in it
half a block from the asylum.
Give a low whistle and I will
answer it. It will be a dark sunny
afternoon from the distant wheel faces.
I do not think there's much
chance of our meeting curious
persons near the convent wreck?"

the Committee

3707
4026 "No, indeed" John agreed.
It makes me shiver to look
at the wreck, it looks worse
than a ship wreck on the rocks.
It was a terrible strong wind to
(demolish) demolish a building
so powerfully built. There will be
nobody near there except us.
Will you not come home with
me Harry until it is time to
start. You will need supper for
you must keep up all your
strength."

I accepted the official invitation
and after partaking of a meal
with John and his wife and mother
in law who were informed of the
attempt which was to be made.
I sat looking quietly at the
glare of the far distant wheat field
fires, arranging in my mind
all the details of the enterprise
uttering many a silent prayer
that I might be permitted to
discover the mystery.

John went in and out
arranging his preparations at half
past five he said touching
me on the shoulder "It is
time to start Harry. I have

4027
got the bag of money
Everything is in the car and the
men are getting ready to start
with it. It is time to go and meet
them."

"Martha his wife and also his
mother in law burst into tears
as they said good by to me. One

"I shall spend all night on my
knees" she said and so
will my mother praying God
and the Holy Virgin Mother of
God to aid you and find out
the mystery about all those
dear little disappeared little angels.
There is a large basket Harry
with plenty of food for you
to eat this evening and a
bottle of good brandy. You will
want strength if on your risky
adventure."

Half five minutes after I
and John had gained the
appointed spot, ^{we} heard
a low whistle at a hidden street
corner. John whistled in
return and in another minute
a car appeared through the
smoke mist. We took our
places in the back seat.

4028 and the car went slow
slowly on its way. We had
to watch for debris.
The shambles of Cheshelbourn
was a long stretch of conglomeration
of debris and everything was very
still, and no sound was heard.
The awe of the horrible event which
had taken place hung over the
ruining people, and although there
were or was drinking among the
ruffians of other places in
the sunning back lanes, even
these instinctively avoided Ches-
terbourn and the neighborhood
of the river.

So thick was the fog of smoke
from the far distant wheatfield fires
that we were some little time
before we found what was once a
convent. When we did so we got
around to the southeast section
and took from the car the long
ladder noselessly the tools and
beams were hauled up. Then I
said:

"That is all John."
"Not at all Harry," he said
to me. "We are not going to
leave you till the work is

is done. We have settled 4029
that four sets of hands can
work better than one and be-
sides we may hit upon some
idea. No one can say."

As it was absolutely useless
to remonstrate, I let the good
fellows have their way. The men
had already placed the ladder
against the wall and made their
way to the floor of the chapel. I
followed. "Ah it is just as well,"
I brought a file with me. John
said in a low voice as he climbed
a low ladder strip ladder and felt
what was left of the rear chapel
ceiling. It is still fastened to
some stout beam. This ceiling
is a wreck almost a shambles
and might have some trouble
propping it up. But let us see
first. On this beam we use
holds. Now force it in place
altogether."

As he spoke we propped it up
light. The ladder was then lifted
up. "I shove it up corner ways
into what is left of the roof."
John said. "We can work at
it all the better there Jacques."

4030 do you get that large long board out of the car and help us fastened it up here. It is not likely the wreckage above will come down, but it is just as well not to run any risk."

As soon as all were below that wrecked ceiling and the long board was forced across the ceiling above the party got to work.

Two saws had been brought up and a piece three foot square was cut out from a broken door and fastened up against the center of the ceiling and forced in place. Four pieces of wood each ten feet long were screwed against the combing of this wrecked ceiling to such a position that when the beams were placed upon them they were exactly level with the ceiling and supported the beams in their original position.

"That will do nicely," John said when it was finished and the new roofing experimentally placed in its position. Then

all you have to do is just 4031 more tightly fasten the ends of the beams to their ledges.

Don't let anything fall down from its place or we'll be crushed. The storm I must have had an awful explosive force to do all this. The upper section is no great weight now."

"It will do capitally well," I said when it was finished and everything experimentally placed in its position. "Yes, I have no fear of that part of the investigation going wrong. Be careful that nothing will fall down. You don't think that it will be noticed from the street do you?"

"Not it," John answered confidently. "I do begin to think you will do it Harry. At first it seemed hopeless. Now I really think there is a chance. Now Harry we will just have one nip of brandy apiece out of this bottle and then we will be off. You will want your strength in the morning. May the good God bless you and aid you in your investigation."

the Committee

4032 whether wither the spirits
of the children are here or
not I think you are the bravest
man I ever met. Or would
you rather we stopped with you
during the night?

"Yes," said "for if I have no
witness how am I going to prove
what I've seen."

"All right we will ^{and} what
courage you have. I think you will
succeed. We'll remain as witnesses."

Well what then? asked

"I blew out the other candles, but
left one in my lantern burning
and threw myself down on an
old mattress and thought over every
detail of what if it was true we
would see that night. As he had
said the great danger was of the
fact the upheld wreckage still able
to come in I knelt down and
prayed for some time. Then I
replaced the piece we had cut
from the overhanging roof de-
bris and fixed the beams
beneath it. Then I laid down
again. I was worn out by the
excitement of the day and
in spite of my anxiety about

4033
the morrow I presently fell off
to sleep. It was not long before
some strange sound awakened me.
I saw a strange light streaming
into my hiding place from
outside as if the sun was already
up. But it was night and there
was no sun.

8
I awoke my helpers and they
said in a whisper the light is
uncommon. Then these strange voices
principally in children but they
saw no one. We watched as if
fascinated the strange light
for a minute or so. Then sudden-
ly everything disappeared and
we were in the dark. Now if
the convent ruins are not
really haunted then some-
thing strange is really
going on."

Another incident I must now
relate is of a man called Reuben
John Whitney who neighbors
living in the buildings which
was not hit by the western
claim witnessed the disintegration

of the Convent

3102 7 con
4034 of the Sacred Heart Convent
in Chesterbourn. That afternoon
August 15 he had been
sent on an errand to the big
Super Market. He claims he did not
hear the twister coming until there
appeared a tremendous explosion
of sound where the Convent was
and saw an enormous rush of
cloud towards the east.

Reuben as I was told made a dive
for a deep cellar to escape the storm
but he was not quick enough
and the wind catching him
hauled him head first into
the cellar. At the same time a
piece of timber stuck into his
right leg.

Reuben after the storm
passed came out and shouted
for help trying to pull the
sharp end of the plank from
his leg. A man came to
assistance and compelled it
to loose its hold.

Has it stabbed you badly
Reuben?"

Well it has stuck me pretty
hard and deep. Reuben replied
to me I think it has nearly

38
taken a piece out of my 48
calf an on pulling up 4036
his trousers leg he showed
his leg streaming with blood.
Put it under this pump lad
I will pump water on it I said.
It was a bad tempered brute of a
tornado and I wonder one could
form like that.

All tornadoes out to be put out
of existence Reuben grumbled
to me angrily. If you hadnt
been within reach that sharp
ended plank would have taken
the lit out of me, they all
kill people wherever they come
and if possible it were best
to kill the twister first.

I pumped for some time on
Reuben's leg and then going to
a bed sheet lying across some
wreckage I cut some strips from
it and bound it up.

You'd best go to the shelter
of one of those house that was
missed I said I will tell
the rescuers what happened
to you. I doubt if you will
have to lay up for a day
or two.

I was much in danger.
I was near the edge of the Convent.

4037 I followed as Reuben limped home and we met Thomas Thorne working among the wreckage with dozens of other men.

"Hello Reuben the latter exclaimed what happened to you? Your pants are all torn on one leg. Did the tornado get you?"

"That brute of a wind storm tumbled me head first into a cellar and stuck a large plank of wood into my leg" Reuben answered. "It has stuck into me pretty sharp."

My poor friend Reuben had to keep his leg quiet for three days but the third evening he was well enough to go and help rescuers still busy looking for injured among the disintegrate of wreckage. He had hard time to do any rescue work for his leg was very stiff and he thought it would be a good thing to try and work it off as he intended to go better to work next morning. On getting up early in the morning

ing however he found it 4038 still stiff and sore but he told me he thought he had better go and try at helping at the rescue work a bit.

"I am glad you are back again" the foreman of the rescue crew said when I brought him "for there is a lot of work on hand to get the rest from the wreckage but I see you are still lame. Mr. Danger tells me it was a nasty stab."

"It's very sore still as it was a deep wound" I heard Reuben reply "and I don't think I can walk about much but I thought I might help your crew in some other way."

"Very well" the foreman said "there is lots of wreckage which needs shifting here and there you help on them and I will take up the crow bar and loosen them."

I watched Reuben work hard till half past eight and then went off to his breakfast. On his return we was told the head of the committee

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4039 wished to speak to him about that big Sacred Heart convent I expect the foreman remarked, "I suppose you know the upper part went into oblivion that awful afternoon."

"Yes I know" Reuben replied. "It was an unusual disappearance of the upper stories and everyone in it. It happened at the time the time that damn twister drove that plank into my leg."

I went with him to headquarters was shown into the office where the head committee man was sitting. An official was standing beside the desk.

(Now Reuben) "Now then Reuben the head man said I

"Now then Reuben" the head man said. "I want you to tell the truth about this matter. This official told me three days ago at the time the storm struck you with the plank that you witnessed the destruction of the

Sacred Heart Convent 4040. and I made up my mind to find out the mystery on the first opportunity but find more than half of the upper part with all those in it entirely disappeared."

He stopped as if expecting to say something but he merely replied.

"Yes sir so also the foreman told me."

"What do you know about it Reuben."

"It's too horrible to say anything about it sir" Reuben replied opening his eyes. "I am still shaky sir."

"Now see here my good man" the committee man said gravely. "I am disposed to think well of you and although I consider it a very serious and uncanny event of that destruction of the uppermost part of the convent I shall consider it very much worse if you exaggerate it."

But I cannot exaggerate sir" Reuben affirmed. "I never dreamed of such a thing. That

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404 the event which occurred to the convent is such as never happened before for any mortal man to witness or at least as any man observed to tell of and the thirty six second of deadly terror at the sight, the deadly sight which I then had witnessed have shaken me up body and soul. I don't know whether the upper part of the convent dissolved away like a big cloud of debris or dust or not but it was to me a most terrifying sight.

By what I look to you you would suppose me to be a very very old man but that is not so. It took less than thirty seconds to change the hair on my head from brown to an ink black to weaken my limbs and to make my nerves so awfully unstrung and that now I tremble much at the least exertion. I am now somewhat frightened at my very

own shadow. Do you know I can scarcely look towards where the convent is located without getting giddy?"

The chief committee man set his lips hard together. "Just tell me your story again," he said to the official.

Well that awful afternoon of August 15 I went down into 13th street to buy some eggs and bacon, just as I got back my dogs were acting crazy almost like dogs with rabies. I know how dark thunder-

storm clouds get but the darkening of the sky west ward caused me apprehension.

The appearance of the cloud as far as I could see over my head had something very unusual become over it. Although at the time there was a dead calm and it was very hot and sultry among the clouds there was a short angry cross clashing storm in every direction as well in the teeth of the upper winds as

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4043 otherwise, as I looked
towards the southwest there
came nearer and nearer a
loud and gradually increasing
sound that vibrated the very
air. It sounded like a vast herd
of buffaloes moaning and
bellowing while in stampede
across a Western prairie while
at the same moment the
chopping character the cloudy
sky while coming nearer was
rapidly changing into a strange
current which was rushing
to the eastward to north.

While I gazed and came
close the current was acquiring
a monstrous speed and to
me striking like a crowd of
terrified children.

Each moment seemed to add to
its speed as it slowly came
nearer and it increased to
a most headlong impetuosity
while still further away there
was a sound like the loudest
howling of thousands
of dogs. I'm sure I saw
something westward at some
distance that from its shape

looked terribly suspicious 4044
but because of the gathering
darkness I could yet distinguish
its shape. There was an awful
loud sound as if the whole city
there was flying to pieces and
as from thousands of explosions
at one time.

In five minutes the whole
cloudy canopy overhead became
loosed in the most ungovernable
fury, but it was further westward
and in the direction of the
smashing sound that the main
uprush held its sway. Here
the vast sheets of onward rushing
clouds reared and roared into
according to my estimation in
a thousand conflicting unruled
channels burst suddenly into
frenzied channels as it got
overhead bearing downward
downward boiling rushing gy-
ring in gigantic and innumerable
innumerable vortices and all
whirling and eddying slowly
rushing on it to the eastward
with a rapidity which clouds
never assumed before.
In a few minutes more

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404⁵ as most of the cloud was passing onward there came upon the scene another radical alteration. The general surface further to the west grew somewhat more smooth and the whirlpools of cloud one by one disappeared into the distant east while prodigious streaks of lighter cloud became apparent where none had been seen before.

These streaks at length spreading out to a great distance and entering into combination took unto themselves as they were nearly overhead the gyration motion of the vortices that swirled to the east and was the advancing form of another more vast.

Suddenly very suddenly as it came nearer it assumed a distinct and unusual expanse in a long wide swirling wide shroud of more than a mile in diameter.

The upper section of the whirl was represented by a

by a broad belt of gleaming cloud like spray but because of coming in dense darkness could not see the base of the terrific funnel inclined to the horizon at an angle of some forty-five degrees speeding dizzily inward and so around faster than an electric motor with a swaying and strange sweltering motion with great clouds of debris flying from it in all directions.

For it seemed to rent forth to the winds an appalling sound half roar half shriek such as not even a hundred mighty cataracts of Niagara or one ever struck up in all their agony to the very blessed Heaven.

The streets trembled like as if there was an earthquake and there was concussion in the very air. I threw myself into the deep basement of a house and clung to the northeast wall in an excess of nervous agitation and panic. "This" I thought to myself is nothing else but a great whirlpool of the air, &

404⁶

4048 cloud of swirling debris of
immense size. It is hard for
me to give ordinary accounts
of this mighty ^{or} vast and
was by ~~no~~ means prepared
for what I saw. Those who have ever
described tornadoes, which perhaps
are the most circumstantial of any,
cannot describe their faintest concep-
tion either of the magnificence or of
the horror of the scene or of the wild
bewildering scene of their inside
explosive destruction which confounds
the beholder.

4048. A cloud of swirling debris of
immense size. It is hard for
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are the most circumstantial of any
cannot describe their faintest concep-
tion either of the magnificence or of
the horror of the scene or of the wild
bewildering scene of their inside
explosive destruction which confounds
the beholder.

I am not sure from what point of view I surveyed this onrushing shroud of destruction nor at what time, but it could neither have been between the Convent and the Angel Guardian Orphanage.

7 here are now some passages
of the description of this unrepeatable
horror. nevertheless which may be
quoted from their details although
their effect is exceedingly feeble
in conveying an impression of
the wild mad spectacle 7 now
now

It was some distance yet between North Avenue and Halsted street but on the other

side towards Courtland street
the storm was rushing 4049
between Acme and Webster Ave
with ^{the} most ^{eastern} rapidity
and the roar of its impetuous
wind all towards Ninth Avenue from
the southwest is scarcely equalled
by the loudest and most dreadful
howling ~~at~~ sounds the more as I
heard or read being heard as far
as Alton Ill and St Louis, and the
voices of the great wind whirlpool
were of such an extent and height
that whatever was in its path was
inevitably absorbed and drawn up to
the uttermost clouds and there beat
to pieces by the speed of the whirling
wind, and the debris thrown far
and wide.

When the storm got most
horridous and its fury was very
much heightened by its advance
I found it was much dangerous
to be within a (small) mile of it.
I saw boats yachts and other ships
on the river carried away and it was
impossible to describe the
deafening howling and bellowing
of the storm, it roared terribly
as to be heard as the papers
said as far as Alton or St. Louis.

7 saw boats yachts and other ships
on the river carried away and it was
impr 7 impossible to describe the
deafening howling and bellowing
of the storm, it roared terribly
as to be heard as the papers
said as far as Alton or St. Louis.

4050 It seems unbelievable but it was proven true. I'll bet if a big whale was too near this storm it would be overpowered by its violence, and would not be able to disengage itself and would be borne aloft and then dropped from the main cloud.

Afterwards I saw large fragments of wooden houses and even sides of what was left of brick walls and even what was left of big trees broken and torn to such a degree as if bristles grew on them. This showed of what speed they were whirled to and fro.

Like currents of the Ocean this big whirling storm seemed to be regulated as if it had the flux and reflux of the sea too near the whirlpool of the Norway Moskoshom.

In moving towards the great Saved Heart Convent it was raging with such noise and impetuosity that the very bricks of house more than a block away were falling to the ground.

In regard to the length of the twister and its mile and three quarters under I Danger myself could not see how

this could have been 4051 ascertained at all in the immediate vicinity of the vortex. The said twenty five mile length of the funnel must have reference only to portions of the main storm of winds close up the Convent either of Twenty Fourth Street or Halsled.

The height in the center of this Moskoshom of air must have been immeasurably greater and no better proof this fact was necessary than could be obtained from even the sidelong glance upon the side of the whirl which may be had from down the streets towards which it was making its head long rush.

Looking up from the street upon the howling Phlegethon above and surging forward I could not help smiling at the simplicity with which this man records as a matter difficult of belief, the anecdote of the whale and other things, for it appeared to me in fact, a self evident thing that the largest ships ever in existence been being caught in the path of this most horrible of cyclones could resist it as little

4053 as a feather in a hurricane
and must disappear up into
the vortex bodily and at once.
The attempts to account for this
terrific and unmeasurable phenomenon
none of which I remember seemed
to me sufficiently plausible in
personally plausible, now were a very
different and unsatisfactory aspect.
The idea generally received
is that this have no other cause
than the most violent collision
of terrific waves of violently agitated
waves of air rising and falling
against a low or with a low
pressure area which confines the
violent actions of the winds
which contains the frenzied storm
so that the upper currents
of the whirl precipitate itself
like a cataract causing the descent
of the funnel, and thus the
higher the warmer currents
inside the funnel rises the
deeper must the fall of the
colder currents be and the
natural result of all is a
exceedingly violent whirlpool
or vortex of unmeasurable
strong gales at its lowest point

The prodigious suction 4053
of which coming as an inevitable
rush of the loudest winds ever
known or believed of which is
sufficiently known to pull the
strongest house to pieces as swiftly
as I would rock myself on the
face with the palm of my
hand.

In regard to the height and
width of the Ansel Moskoe storm
I could not see how this could be
have been ascertained at all ~~see~~
rushing hell bend through Chebertown
killing in the immediate vicinity
of the supposed to be tornado proof
Sacred Heart Convent.

If it was really that high or long
the "fourty fathoms" must have
reference only to portions of the
main cloud close upon the main
center of the storm or lower
down.

The depth in the center of the
Moskoe storm of fiercely whirling
air must have been immeasurably
greater and no better proof
of this fact is necessary than can
be obtained from even the sidelong
glance into the abyss of the whirl

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as if seen from above
405-4 which may be had from
the highest point of view.

Looking down from this height
upon the shrieking howling yelling
Phlegethon below, I could not help
smiling at the simplicity with
which these Weather men records
as a matter of fact difficult of
belief the anecdotes of the largest
brick buildings getting the worst of
it for it appeared to me in fact
a self evident thing that the
strongest stone or brick buildings
even in existence getting involved
within the influence of that most
deadly attraction could resist it
as little as feathers in a hurricane
and must disappear bodily and at
once.

The attempts to account for this
awful Moskoestrom wind phen-
omenon much of which I do
remember seemed to me suff-
icently plausible in perusal
had were a very different aspect.

It was or were around the
funnel, lower and upper the
wide whirling umbrella shapes
of debris far and wide which

made the crazed tumult 405-5
of sound which is beyond all
description. A tornado never did
that before or even was known to
do so.

Yet this was a very different and
to me a very unsatisfactory aspect.
The idea generally received is that
these two "umbrellas" as well as
three smaller debris vortices among
the tearing up city have no other
cause than the collision of swirling
debris rising and falling at flux
and reflux of the storm against
the numerous buildings which
tried to confine the whister
so that the debris precipitates itself
like a cataract, and thus the higher
the swirling "umbrellas" rose the
further down the fall must be and
the natural result of all is a
whirlpool of swirling debris or
sucking up vortex the prodigious
upward suction of which was
sufficiently known by lesser ex-
perience.

My friend Henry Peter Kirchen
and others imagined that the
center of this horrible channel of
winds or maelstrom of air was

4056 was an abyss penetrating
the main storm cloud and
issuing in some very remote
part the 'gulf' of the upper
atmosphere being some what
decidedly named in one instance.

This opinion idle in itself
was the one to which as I gazed
my imagination most readily
assented and mentioning it to
other witnesses I was rather
surprised to hear them say
that although it was the view al-
most universally entertained after
the storm of the subject by them
it nevertheless was no normal
tornado.

As to the former notion they
confessed their inability to really
comprehend it and here I agreed
with them, for however conclusive
on paper, it becomes altogether
unintelligible and even absurd and
the thunder of the immeasurable
thunder of the twister.

So, the state of things however
did not last long enough to
give us time to think about it.

In less than a minute
the storm was upon us and
such a word as then blew

it is folly to attempt des 4056
cribing I believe all persons
who had ever been in awful
cyclones before never experienced
anything like it. It was a day
which people of this part of the
world will never forget for
it was one in which blew the
most terrible wind that ever
came from a whirling tornado
funnel.

To me it did not seem to come
at the convent like a windstorm
at all. It seemed more like an
onrushing explosion of most un-
believable immeasurable force
and strength.

It seemed like at the first
puff that the upper parts of
the convent went away like
great clouds of dust as if they
were exploded suddenly taking
away with them all the inmates
of the building.

If they screamed in their
torment and horror the din of the
storm so increased I could not
hear a single sound from
them although they may have
screamed at the top of their voice.

4057 It seemed that all the upper part of the convent was the lightest feather of a thing that was ever blown by any wind. But for the circumstance of the other four story buildings on the west side and southwest of the convent across the street the whole building would have gone at once for it lay entirely in the path of the full fury of the storm.

Yet how all of the building escaped destruction when all those were reduced into disintegrated shambles, I cannot say, but I never had an opportunity of ascertaining.

In less than a minute the worst of the storm was upon us, in less than ten seconds more and what with this and the driving wind hell it became suddenly so dark that I could see no more of what was happening to the convent but the terrible yelling sound and other combination of sound from the storm others could not dare to describe but I will try.

At the same moment the roaring humming noise of

of the Twister as loud as 4058 severe thunder was completely drowned in a kind of most shrill shriek such a sound as you might imagine given out by the steam pipes of many thousand steam ships and other vessels letting off their steam all together. It was added by a loud ghostly howl of as from many thousands of wolves and at the same time a sound like the ripping and tearing of black upon black of buildings or as buildings sound when being wrecked by a severe earthquake.

An unsuccessful race with the Chester Brown Moskoe stream of the car.

At the time this happened I was the driver of a Chester Brown motorbus to make an attempt to escape this awful whirlpool of air. We were for some moments completely deluged by clouds of flying debris and I put on full speed to reach a street where I could turn and get out of its path.

It was more instinct that prompted me to do this which was undoubtedly the very best thing I could have done for I was too.

4059 plucked to think as I said
before were completely deluged
by clouds of debris as I say and
all this time I held my breath
and desperately, desperately, clinging to the
thriller. When I could stand it no longer
I stood up, still keeping hold with
my hand and thus got my head
clear.

Presently the motor bus which
had sixty school children on board
was shaken by the roar of the
twister rushing on behind just as a
dog does in coming out of the water.

I was trying to get the better of
the panic that had come over me
and to collect my senses so as to
see what street I could reach to
turn northwest on when I felt some-
body grasp my arm.

It was my assistant driver and my
heart leaped for joy, for I had
made sure that we were gaining
on the twister, but the next
moment all my joy was
turned into horror for he put
his mouth close to my ear
and screamed out, it was as
gaining on us and very swiftly
too. No one will ever know
what my feelings were at that

moment I shook from head 40 60
to foot as if I had the most violent
fit of the fog as I heard the
twister yell thunder and scream
after us. I knew what he meant
by those words well enough I knew
what he was trying to make me
understand.

In spite of how fast I was
driving the bus and no matter how
I drove on the wind wheel of the
'Storm' was slowly gaining on us
and nothing could save us.

You perceive if we were to cross the
new street to turn on the corner we
could have went a long way up
northwest beyond that screeching
whirl, but now we were driving on
without reaching a northwest street
to turn on on with such a hurricane
as this following close as this.
And if we ran out of Gas — "To
be sure" I thought, we shall get
to such a street just in time there
is some little hope in that but
the next moment I cursed my
self for being so great a fool
as to dream of hope at all. The
storm, as fast I drove still deluged
us with all sorts of flying wreckage
like a rough bombardment. I knew.

3707
4061 very well we were doomed
had we been on a two
block long bus. By this time
the first fury of the advancing
tempest had doubly increased itself
or perhaps we felt its attraction more
in spite of racing before it but at
all events the distant clouds of flying
debris now seemed to get up into
absolute cyclones themselves. A
singular change too had come ~~over~~
over the heavens.

Around us in every direction it
was still as black as pitch but nearly
overhead, there burst out all at once
a circular rift of strange lightning
flashes that wouldn't stop, as dazzling
bright as I ever saw and through
it all there blazed forth a glow
with a luster that I never knew
any lightning before to flash
or glare.

I lit up everything about us
with the greatest distinctness but
oh God what a scene it was to
light up. I now made two attempts
to speak to the Conductor but in
some manner which I
could not understand the driver
had so increased that I could
not make him understand a

single word although I did 4062
scream at the top of my voice in his
ear. Presently he shook his head
looking as pale as death and held up
one of his fingers as if to say: -
"Sister"

At first I could not make out
what he meant but soon a hideous
thought flashed upon me. With my
left hand I dragged my watch out of
its fob, I glanced at its face by the
strange continuous lightning glare
and then burst into tears as I re-
placed it. It was five o'clock,
we were now not so far behind
the crushing honor and the
whirl of the awful tornado 'storm'
was in full fury.

When a motor bus is well built
properly trimmed and not too heavily
laden the winds of a strong
tornado when it is going large
seem always to slip from beneath
her which appears very strange to
unexperienced persons and this is
what is called riding on the air.

With the increase of the noise
I had thrown a quick glance to the
rear and that one glance was suffi-
cient I saw our exact position

4064 In an instant the tornado looking worst than ever was about three blocks away to the rear but no more like an ordinary twister than the whirl as you now see it in a mill race.

If I had not known where we were and what we had to expect I should not have recognized the streets at all.

As it was I involuntarily closed my eyes and I think the lids must have clinked themselves together as if in some kind of spasm. It could not have been two minutes afterwards until we find the motor bus make a sharp turn to what would be called 'starboard' if on a ship and then shot off in its new direction like a swift thunderbolt.

We were now in the belt of wind, wind that always surrounds the tornado whirl and I thought of course that another moment would suck us up into the funnel, up which we could see indistinctly on account of the amazing velocity with which we were borne along. Yet the bus did not seem

to rise up into the air at all. 4064 But to skirn like some air bubble you see on the surface of a stream. Her side was next the whirl and on the larboard or front across the 'world' of swirling debris we had left. It stood like a forward rushing high withering wall between us and the horizon.

It may appear strange but now when we were in the very jaws of the funnel I felt more composed than when it was approaching us. I made up my mind that it was useless to even have any more hope, so I strove with all my might to get rid of most of that terror which at first unmanned me so much.

I think my nerves were unstrung with despair.

Well but you will think I am boasting, but I'm telling you the simple truth that I began to reflect how magnificent it would be to die in that way, and how foolish it would be in me to think of so paltry a consideration as to save my own individual life, or

4064

4065 in view of so wonderful a
man manifestation of Gods power.
I might have blushed with shame.
when this idea crossed my mind,
after a little while I became some-
what possessed with the most
keenest curiosity about the whirl
of the tornado itself.

I positively felt a wish to
explore its upper interior
heights even at the sacrifice I
was going to make and my
main grief that I should never
be able to tell anyone about the
mysteries of the inside of the
tornado I should see.

There no doubt were very
singular fancies to occupy a mans
mind in such extremity and
I've often thought since that the
swift revolutions of the motor
bus, around the funnel might
have rendered me a little
light headed.

There was another circumstance
which intended to restore my self
possession for some time and
this was it seemed we might

4066

still have the chance to win the
race on it, hoping it could not
reach us, in our present situation,
for as you could see for yourself, the
lowest part of the swirling shroud
was considerably lower than the
general swirl of the twister and this
latter now towered above us
a high black mountainous
revolving horror of the black
clouded skies.

But horror it finally overtook
us. If you have never been
on taken by a cyclone
you can never form no
idea of the confusion of mind
occasioned by the wind and
clouds of flying debris all
together they blind deafen
and strangle you and take
away all power of action or
reflection.

But were now in a great
measure in a worse part of these
dreadful annoyances.

How often we made the
circuit of the tornado's outer
belt it was impossible to
say. We careered round

4066

4067 and round for perhaps
 six minutes flying and also
 apparently floating getting gradually
 more and more into the middle
 of the outer surge, and then
 nearer and nearer to its most
 horrible inner edge.

All this time I never let
 go of the throttle. The conductor
 was at the rear while the
 children were screaming at the
 top of their voices in their panic
 and terror.

As we were pulled towards
 the edge of the twister
 the conductor made for
 the throttle from which in
 the agony of his terror he tried
 to force my right hand, but
 it was not large enough
 to afford us both a secure and
 firm grasp. He wanted if really
 possible to put on full
 gun power and escape the
 outer edge of the storm
 whirl.

I never feel such awful
 grief and despair than when
 I saw him attempt this

useless act - although I knew 4068
 he had become a madman when
 he did it - a saving maniac
 through sheer fright.

I had no desire however to
 contest the situation with him.
 I knew it could make no
 difference whether either of us
 held on to the throttle at all
 as it would not save us at any
 time. I let him have the
 throttle and went to the rear.

Thus there was no great
 difficulty for the ship flew around
 steadily, even aghast and up and
 down, only swaying to
 and fro with the immense surges
 and swells of the outer parts
 of the whirl.

Scarcely had I secured myself
 to my new position when we
 gave a wild lurch to the
 side and rushed headlong
 for the actual furriel of
 the storm. I muttered a
 hurried prayer to God
 and thought all was over.
 As I felt the sickening

4069 upwards of the ascent
if ascent it really was? had
instinctively tightened my hold
upon the back of a seat and
closed my eyes.

For some seconds I did not
have the courage to open them
while I expected instant des-
truction for us all and wondered
that we and all the child
passengers were not already in
our death struggles with the
funnel.

But moment after moment
elapsed. We still lived. We were
not being pulled up. The sense
of rising had ceased and the
motion of the bus seemed
as much as it had been before
while in the circular belt of
the outward swirl with the full
exception that she now lay
on her side.

I took courage and looked
upon the scene once a gain.

Never will I forget the
sensation of awe, horror and
admiration with which I

gazed about me. The 4070
bus appeared to be hanging
or apparently standing midway
up as if by magic upon the outer
surface of a funnel vast in cir-
cumference prodigious in height
and whose perfectly smooth whirl-
sides might have been mistaken
for ebony, but for the bewild-
ery motor like rapidity with
which they spun around and
for the gleaming and ghastly rad-
iance they shot forth as the
reflection of the continuous bright
lightning flashes from that
circular rift amid the upper clouds
which I already described streamed
in a brilliant glory along the
black outer walls.

At first I was much too con-
fused to observe anything accurately.

The general burst of terrible grand-
eur was all that I beheld. A

When I recovered myself a
little however my gaze was
instinctively forward. In this
first direction I saw the storm
had thrown us forward and
seen blocks and in the second
direction I was able to obtain

4071 on unobstructed view from the manner in which the bus stood near the inclined surface of the whirling storm.

Like a ship the bus was quite upon an even keel - that is to say the floor and rows of seats lay in a plane parallel with that of the lowest churning movement of the tornado but this latter sloped at an angle of more than forty five degrees so that ~~we~~ ^{we} seemed like a ship to be upon our beam ends.

I could not help observing nevertheless that I had scarcely more difficulty in maintaining my hold and footing in this situation than if we had been upon a dead level and this I suppose was owing to the awful speed at which we revolved.

The superficial reflection of the strange lightning seemed to search the very lowest lowest part of the profound funnel but I still could make out nothing distinctly on account of the thick shroud in which everything there was enveloped.

This shroud was made

doubt occasioned by the 4072 clashing of the great walls of the funnel as they all met together at the bottom but the yell that went up to the heavens from out of that shroud I dare not attempt to describe.

Our first pull up towards the staging funnel itself from the belt of swirling wreckage below had carried us upwards to a great distance up the outward part of the outer whirl around the funnel, while the twister itself because of the immeasurable speed of the whirl tried several times to fling us very roughly aside, but our further uprising was by no means proportionate.

Round and round we swept with unbelievable speed yet not with any uniform movement but in digging swings and jerks that sent us sometimes towards the funnel only a few hundred yards only again to be flung aside on the inner or outer ledge of the funnel war too rigid rigid or tight to draw us into itself in spite we went around the complete circuit of the outer whirl.

4073 Our progress upward, at each revolution was slow but very perceptible, me upon the ^{rising to about} ~~wide~~ ^{of swirling} debris on which we were thus borne. I perceived that our motor bus was not the only object in the embrace of the outer whirl.

Both above and below us were visible fragments of all sort of house, large and thick as actual clouds, large masses of building timber, furniture, bed mattresses, all types of household furniture, broken boxes, barrels, stoves, wreckage of all sorts.

I have already described the unusual, unnatural strange curiosity which had taken the place of my original lessons.

It appeared to grow upon us as we drew nearer as it seemed to our dreadful doom, I now began to watch with a shaggy interest the numerous things that swirled in my or our company. I must have been delicious for I never sought an amusement in speculating

upon the relative velocities ⁴⁰⁷⁴ of their several ascents toward the upper swirl of the dense ~~skrud~~ ^{skrud}. This big elm tree I found myself at one time saying will certainly be the next thing that takes the awful uprise and disappears and then I was disappointed to find that the fragmentary wreck of a wooden house overtook it and went up before.

By far the greater number of articles were shattered in the most extraordinary way so chafed and roughened as to have the appearance of being stuck full of splinters.

Suddenly a great change took place in the character of the tornado whirlpool of wind.

The length of the winter became momentarily more and more slanting.

The gyrations of the whirl grew gradually more and more violent and the outer whirl seemed slowly to uprise.

Well so far we had ridden the outer whirl very cleverly but presently a gigantic swirl of wreckage happened to take us right under the motor bus and bore us

4075 with it as it rose up
up - as if into the sky,
I would not have believed
that any swirl of debris from
all the houses could be drawn by
the upward rush of the winds
so high.

And then down we came with
a sweep and a plunge that
made me feel sick and
dizzy, as if I was falling
from some lofty mountain
top in a dream.

But while we were up
I had thrown a quick glance
around and that one glance
was all sufficient.

The funnel of the tornado
was about a quarter of a mile
behind us, but no more
like the everyday "mookae
strom" off the coast of Nor-
way than the whirl as you
could now see it was
like a mill race.

If I had not known
where we were and what
we had to expect I
should not have recog-
nized the twister at

all. As I was I sudden-
ly and involuntarily
closed my eyes in horror.
The lids clinched themselves
as if in a convulsion.

It could not have been more
than two minutes afterwards until
we suddenly felt the swirl greatly
increase and were enveloped in a
dense of debris cloud of debris flying
in all directions with a loud indes-
cribly loud confusion of noises.

The bus made a sharp turn
to what is called "larboard" on a
ship, and then shot off in its
new direction like a lightning
flash.

At the same time the loud
conglomeration of sound from the
clouds of swirling wreckage and
the humming roar of the funnel
was completely drowned in a kind
unnerving unearthly shrill shriek
such a sound as you might really
imagine given out by the hot
steam water pipes of many thousand
steamships letting off their full
force of steam at one time.
We were now in the main
swirl of the debris that was

4077 surrounding the whirl
of the funnel and I
thought of course that another
moment would pull us up
and either on the outer side
of the funnel or into it up
which we could only see in-
distinctly because of the shroud,
and of the amazing velocity
with which we were borne
along.

The bus did not seem to
be adrift, the sea of swirling
wreckage at all but to skum
like an air bubble upon the
surface of the debris.

Her "starboard" side was
next to whirl and on the
"larboard" arose the world
of swirling debris we had
left. It stood like a huge
wrecking wall between us and
the yelling funnel.

The bus was borne
violently down the street and
in a few minutes was swiftly
hurried down the main
street and hurled into a
side street where it left
us with the bus lying...

the bottom up. Rescue 47
finally came upon us 4078
and took us from the
wreckage, surviving but more
or less injured - but exhausted
from fatigue, and now that
the danger was removed speech-
less from the full memory
of its horror.

I told the rescuers my story
and they would not believe me.

I have now told it to all
of you, and yet I am scarcely
expect you to put more faith
in it than they did. It was after
this occurrence to the bus I saw the
disaster to the convent.

I saw the teen age boy standing
near watching the horror and then
aid from the territory runs the boy.
It was too dark to see his face
- but I naturally supposed it was
Henry so I said Hello Henry
are you running from the storm?
It won't do no good.

But the moment I spoke
he turned off the street and ran
wildly but the wind caught
him and threw him head
long into that basement passage.

4079 Well I thought it was very queer for a tornado to do it, but I did not want to be in its path again so I leaped down into an open sewer, about a quarter of a minute afterwards I heard the storm howl louder it kept on at it and the boy came out of the basement to see what was the matter.

It was one of the houses that escaped the storm. All of the upper part of the convent was going before the wind like a cloud of dust and it seemed very bad.

I stood looking at the horrible occurrence wondering what best to do when sudden the worst of the twister tore at the structure with an undescrivable sort of loud yell and thunderous sound as one, and all the upper part disappeared away with it.

It was then too dark to see anything more. I thought it was

no good telling you about 4080 it, till this morning, and thinking it over and seeing how sudden it was I come to the opinion as how every one up there had disappeared with it, and naturally thinking that Henry said had also saw it all and seeing as I met the boy looking at the devastation of the Convent before the wind blew him into that basement a quarter of a minute afore the Convent was took bad it came to me as how he might have seen more than I did.

This morning I knew for certain as all the upper floors and its inmates had been obliterated by the storm for only the ~~upper~~ two lower stories had been left remaining but in a shambles and a photo of it for proof as you have got lying before you."

It was a camera print about eight inches square on which was a photo of the ruined Convent.

You hear that Henry what

408/ what have you to say"
the head man of the
meeting? asked.
"I've got nothing clear to say
Henry answered except that
what ever happened to the convent
it was much too dark to see
the event and that I knew nothing
about it or saw nothing
until it grew a little lighter.
Then I saw the upper part of it
was gone?"

Well Henry it will be
easy for you to prove this by
saying where you were at the
time. What o'clock was it
Motorman Robert that you
saw the boy trying to get a
glimpse of the storm hitting
the convent?"

"It was just a quarter past
five sir the quarter struck
in the town hall just as
the storm came up, It did
miss the town hall."

Were you near the
convent at that hour before
the storm threw you
into that basement
Henry?"

"Were you out gazing at 408?
the on coming twister at that
hour Henry?"

"I was doing so sir I was
watching its approach. When it was
approaching the humming sound
and the noise like thousands of
dogs howling at one time had
increased to the loudest roar I
ever heard."

The shroud itself around that
awful funnel seemed to be cir-
cling with an extreme velocity
as the twister itself. In another
moment it seemed to me that
the end of all things had really
come. I was first pinned against
a street light post as if by a
mighty invisible hand and
then flung down into the opening
of that basement."

"What time did that happen?"

"At quarter to five sir"

"Then if you yet got a chance
to see it, but the convent just
after quarter to five it is clear
that you observed something
very important then" the
head man of the meeting said.
"If you are able to tell me"

4083 that you were there at quarter to five that settles the question as far as you are concerned"

"I didnt get out of the basement till half past five sir" Henry said "It had been so dark that I couldnt see much sir. Only afterwards one and a half floor still remained but was left a shambles. I walked about a bit after I was rescued from the basement debris to try and get the stiff mess out of my leg, so as to be able to work with the rescuers. There was no trace of the upper part of the convent"

"Was any one with you Henry?"
"Is there any one to say what you did about what you saw between quarter to five and half past five?"

"Yes sir" Henry said quietly.
"There were two officials and my rescuers and we didnt see any part of the upper three floors of the convent and didnt see a soul left behind so far as I know

from the time I was 4084 taken out of the basement till I got outside. I knew all that part of the convent was absolutely gone. I couldnt really believe what I saw"

"Do you know what this photo shows?" the head man of the meeting said pointing to the negative.

"Yes sir I believe I know, but it is not mine"

"Well my lad" I myself said. "you must acknowledge that the situation looks very ugly for the convent. You confessed and are known as far as darkness would permit to have seen what happened naturally enough I admit. You have seen a little of what happened according to Robert Camps and that you did see something to good purpose is proved by the fact that the twister took away most of the convent and everybody in it except a nun and a little girl. A quarter of an hour later you saw all what happened when it gave light. That is right you observed when you came from

4085 the basement and by your own admission you were out and saw the whole horrible drama at the time the cyclone struck the convent. The case looks very bad against the tornado."

"I don't care how bad it looks," Henry said passionately. "I wasn't supposed to be according to how it was said the building was so strongly constructed and tornado proof if that were the last word words I ever had to speak. What I saw is really unbelievable. I never thought a tornado could be so strong from my words."

"Very well," the head man said with emotion. "In my mind the evidence is overwhelming of what the tornado did to the convent, and also overwhelming against the tornado. I have no intention of pursuing the matter further nor will I, but if it was possible I'd like to bring great public disgrace upon that darn twister."

4086 but of course I shall not wish to retain you here further unless you may have to say as another speaker is waiting her turn. We cannot of course do anything about the convent in the future."

Without a word Henry turned and went to his seat. Had he spoken more he would have burst into a passion of tears of the thought of the convent horror. With a white face he sat down. His mother then said:

"Have not you no more to tell them? I felt you had more. Mr. Darger the main head here could hear more."

"It is not that mother," I heard him cry in a choking voice. "I couldn't see more because of the intense darkness."

"You couldn't see because it was so dark, Henry?"

"Yes. I saw only what else happened after I got rescued from the basement, the wind blew me into at a quarter to five that afternoon. Before it was too dark for me to

4087 say for certain, but I didn't think the tornado could even do that. But I thought something was wrong because of the awful sound. A quarter of an hour later I could partially see what had happened the upper half of the convent was gone, and this morning they picked up some sort of a photo which showed the wrecked convent.

I couldn't say where I was at quarter past five before I saw the disaster to the convent for you know mother I told you I got blown into that basement and was rescued from the wreckage with a stiff sore leg, so all together I know some of the convent horror."

Henry summed up the points against the tornado in a broken voice and now broken in a passion of tears. His mother and even I tried to pacify and comfort him but indeed her own emotion and indignation against the awful storm and of doing such

a horrid yet mysterious 4088 thing to so magnificent a building was so great that she, or even I could do little to console him?

"It's shameful" she exclaimed over and over again. "I call it down right horrible of the tornado to do such a thing. All those poor children, nuns and others, and they even said the convent was tornado proof."

"Well mother, it does look very bad against the convent" Henry said wiping his eyes at last and I don't know as any one is so much to be blamed for suspecting the convent to be tornado proof.

I know and you know that it wasn't tornado proof but there's no reason why others too should know it. The top of the convent has with everybody been swept all away as to say gone with the wind. The tornado has done it, and it was an unusually strong one at that. We know for real there is no building ever made strong enough to withstand a hurricane

4091 And you shant stand it
my boy. Mrs Whitney
said "not a day I too will
not give up. I didnt think of
that before but I can really
accomplish things in what
is left in Chesterbrown, for
I, (the buildings) am known there
and dont like folks to see
how I can do things, and yet
let things d undone"

"no mother you stop here
and I will go up to Chester-
brown and examine the Con-
vent. They say there is lots
to see there, and I suppose I
can get on in investigating
it as well as another person
can"

"I will not hear of your doing
such a thing keep away from that
terrible convent shambles"

myself said "and you his
mother too. I should never
expect to see either one of
you again. I or all other of
my committee members
would always be thinking
that you got caught under
the wreckage or were killed

by some of the dreaded 4092
shambles. My caring in on you
too, or dying under a pile
of rubble. Its a law I passed
that no one no matter who
they are allowed within fifty
feet of the wreck. No Mrs Whitney
and your son my plan is
best. Its just silliness and regal
suicide to go near it for of
course its better to try something
else. No I dare say no one
will find safety going as near
to it a hundred even"

At that moment Mrs Ellison
started to take the testimonial
stand. Henry had gone onto
a hall bench to lie down for
his leg was very painful.
I didnt give Mrs Ellison time
to begin.

"I know what you rose up
about" I said "but you should
wait until you are called. I
know what the storm did to
you concerning the Convent
and has you grievously
wronged you. I wouldnt
have believed it of the
tornado but its done it so

4093 now ma'am you yet
must wait your turn for
when you are called. We give
everybody their turn at least I
think it will be better if you
wait till you are called for
your turn."

Mrs. Ellison hesitated a moment,
never from the time she entered
the devastated city as the judges
wife had she been spoken to
but she saw at once on my
face that it were better to
wait her turn. She & there
for resumed her seat. But I
heard her say to her husband
sitting next to her -

"I do believe William" she
said greatly ruffled and very
indignant she gave to him
what she knew of the disaster
to the judge that the tornado
was the most terrible thing
that ever occurred, though I
was not in its path it
slapped my face with that
piece of wood it flung at
me as it passed by."

"Well my dear" the judge
said seriously "I can hardly

wonder at your indignation. 4094
yet all who survived injured or
not has had a hard time
of it, and it surely has been
very extremely sad blow,

Naturally we all believe this
calamity very unearthly and we
must not altogether blame
mother nature. It's a sad horrid
business altogether and I know
it will be a worry and trouble
to me for months.

Mind I don't doubt that the
tornado did it, it does not seem
possible that it should be otherwise
still it is absolutely proved,
and upon my word I wish now
I had said nothing about it
at all. I liked that big
beautiful building and I liked
everybody who were in it, and
as this story must get about,
I'll prove more than three
quarters of the convent with
all the persons in it disappeared
into thin air. Altogether it is
a most terrible calamity, the
worst in all history and I would
give all I possess to the saving
of the poor souls in purgatory if it had
not taken place."

4095 "I do not really see why
you should so much worry
about it so much while as
you know those cyclones has
always been troublesome and very
dangerous storms and perhaps
this lesson may do us much
good and cause us to watch out
and be prepared for them in
the future."

The judge did not attempt to
argue the question, I feel possibly
that he felt greatly annoy-
ed and put out. He himself
asked those at the meeting?

"Have you heard Shrewberry
about that Convent calamity?"

"Not any more than Henry
told the man who was a school
master said, 'The situation could
be no worse I hope those damn
tornadoes are always most
masty things'."

"Nothing could ever been
worse" the judge said testily.
Two survivors Sister Mary
Clare and little Mildred
Maxwell are still laid up
in the Simon Seegre Barn
made Hospital."

"Why what else has the 4096
tornado done sir?" the schoolmaster
asked in surprise. The judge related the history
of the convents total disappearance
of its full upper section and of his
interview with Henry Reuben. The
schoolmaster looked serious and most
grieved.

"What do you think of the matter?"
Shrewberry the judge asked when
he had finished.

"I would rather not give any
opinion" the schoolmaster replied
quietly.

"That means you think I am wrong
about the Convent horror" the judge
said quickly "Well say it out man, you
won't offend me. I am half inclined
to think I was wrong myself and
I would as much be told so or
not."

"I don't say you are wrong sir" the
schoolmaster said "except that I
think you assumed the tornado full
ferocity very much too under the
real thing as a matter of course.
Now I have seen a great deal of
that magnificent Convent and
truthfully even Ozma's great palace
in the Emerald City of the so-called 3

40 446 country could never compare
d 4096 to it. I had a great liking
s and admiration for it and
the believed it to be not only very
h singularly beautiful and hand-
u some building but a perfectly
ha strong and said to be tornado
an and earthquake proof and open
u one.

she I allow that the circumstances
at were much against it concerning
sa the force of that record breaking
ve tornado, but the evidence is to
is my mind not completely
re over balanced by what the
u wild twister so suddenly and
tog horribly accomplished.

co You must remember
a also the complete wiping out
ve of St Vincents Church, Lincoln
h park the Angel Guardian
a Orphanage, Super Market and
v other places. As for Henry
h Reuben he saw that you
a were quite convinced of what
he told you he saw, and
that in your eyes his
story would be an severe
aggravation of the Convent
honor. Therefore you see

there was no motive 4097
for telling a lie about what
he saw or of aggravating. How
this record breaking tornado did all
that terrible wiping out, he, or nobody
knows, but from my knowledge
of its terrible immeasurable and
ragged character and violence of its
explosive winds I am perfectly
convinced that any tornado before
this one, never could do that
and others after this again could
ever do it.

This tornado was very superior
to all other tornadoes I ever seen
and as far as people throughout all
Illinois said they heard its yell
proves it so. I heard that at
the same time another one formed
behind the second thunderstorm
but was not in a position to
hit near here nor touch
a single town though it wiped out
a farm property, but this
Chesterbrown honor was in a
different class altogether to
all other tornadoes that ever
occured. The tornado had a
certain terrifying unbelievable
refinement about it that could not

4098 conceive a frightfulness
and unconsideration and
blinding fury and explosive
strength which set it apart
from the others. Mischievous
with its unaccountable and
unusual freak making rage
and inclined to unusually
noisy as it generally was
it couldn't be beat by any
others. The twister had an
explosive force that no one
could hardly believe and
nothing but another one like
it would make it that it
could compare to it"

"But look what it did to all
those inside the convent" the
judge argued urged as in defense of
his own opinion.

"It is so judge"

"I don't know what to say Shrew-
berry" I heard him say at
last. I'm afraid all of this
August weather has made a
bad mess of it but certainly
as I first heard it, the
case seemed to admit of no
doubt. For my word I don't
know what to do. My

wife has been over to 4099
see the ruins of the convent
and she says the tornado blazed
out at the convent and wouldn't
or did not leave anything behind
but a floor and a ~~few~~ quarter
up from the ground, and gave
notice that more than three
stories of the building with all its
inmates were gone. If it had
not been for that ~~that~~ ~~that~~
I might have been able to do
something about the mystery
but Mrs Ellison was very much
agrieved at the manner of the
great storm. Altogether it's one
of the most annoying things I
ever had to do with.

"We have come up to the
point Mr Whitney" I myself said
to let you tell your story now.
It is your turn"

She went to the witness
box.

"I have come up here with
my husband Mr Dager" she
said to tell you and all the
rest at this meeting here
how sorry and grieved we
are to know what happened to

4100 the convent and all other important buildings, and that we are still more sorry for the awful cause. Of course neither my husband nor myself ever believed for a moment that such an awful calamity could ever happen to our fair city of Chester Brown, the idea was preposterous, I told every one I knew so much to day."

Mrs Whitney burst into tears. She had kept up all the time since that awful terror of the sky? sustained partly by great indignation and partly by the desire that no one should see that she felt it, but the thought of the past unspeakable scenes of horror and murder. whole sale assassination by the storm, had cut her to the heart, and she had felt so unwilling to face the scene that she had closed the shutters of the little shop in one of the thirty one buildings that escaped the storm, but she broke

down now from the 4101 greater grief at remembering what awful things the monster storm of the '40s had done.

"I don't know what I shall do without scientific help on this mystery Mrs Whitney Mrs Shrewberry said when the poor woman recovered her composure "It is so dreadful is it quite settled that this mystery can be solved?"

"Quite settled Mrs Shrewberry. I wouldn't stop near those four places under conditions after all this wind hell especially after so many believing they were tornado proof when it is said more than a tornado had something to do with it they ought to have known tornadoes by now"

"I think everybody were too hasty Mrs Whitney the school master said. But you see they did not know it was going to be a tornado like that, and I think if you will excuse my saying so you have been a little hasty too in your own attempt at investigation. A judge came up to me to tell

4102 me about it and ?
could see he was not
satisfied in his mind, even
before I gave him my positive
opinion that the storm had
the most explosive wind
wind force, and I do think
that if you had not tried to
investigate this calamity the
square judge would have taken
back his words and said
that at any rate as there was
absolutely much to prove
he would hold his judge-
ment in suspense until
the matter of the mystery
was cleared up."

And having everyone pointing
the finger at me as a scardy
cat in the meantime. No
thank you Mr Shrewberry
that would not do for me.
I was not a bit hasty. I
came here prepared to talk
about the storm's wicked fury.
If old Mother Nature would
have been deliberately res-
ponsible for this terrible
immeasurable calamity I
should have given her

a piece of my mind that 40
she wouldnt have for - 4103
got all her life even if she
lived, forever. I am quite understand your
feelings Mrs Whitney" Mr Shrew-
berry said "and I have no doubt
I should have acted as you did
if a tornado had done anything
in the same way. Still I think
it is a pity for if the convent
had not been in its path there
would have been chance
of no disaster to it I hear the
president of the meeting calling
to your husband to give his own
testimony"

"You have heard nothing more
that would throw any light on this
affair Judge?"

"No and I dont think I ever
shall."

"Have you any opinion about it
at all?"

"My opinion is that of the cyclone
Itself" the judge said Reuber
believes that the tornado did it
because the River and the railroad
line kept the twister on a straight
line so that it could not
be thrown off its course - zigzag.

4104 every one has thrown a suspicion on that "Why should that have anything to do with it" the head man of the meeting asked.

"Well sir there was one extra twister behind the second thunderstorm who or which rightly or wrongly took a straight bee line course also across farms and country. It barely missed Ottawa. That was the second whirlwind and raged with a fury as if it had a grudge against earth and Heaven both.

That tornado was called Jane Thorne. Reuben says he has not a shadow of evidence that this storm was as strong as the Chesterbourn maelstrom but the storm has certainly been an overly strong one also since that affair of wiping out farms, river bridges and of breaking up beautiful woods and orchards just before the Chesterbourn terror of the skies came here.

The storm called Thorne

you know did it else - 4105 where but allowed the Chester one - tornado to go on faster and fiercer, and the truth would never had been known had it not been as I heard that your little daughter happened to see the Thorne Loring - tornado go by close.

Ever since that time there's been bad blood about the two tornadoes. Witnesses said it had the same head formation, and protruding tongue like the Chesterbourn terror - I do not for a moment say that tornado Thorne equalled the Chesterbourn storm still the twisters were near enough in size for one to be taken for another.

Of course this is the vaguest suspicion. Still if you ask my opinion I should say that I considered from what I have of the character of this Chesterbourn tornado that it would be much more likely to wipe out the great convent, than Thorne would be to do so unless it too could have the same explosive force."

I myself took off my hat and passed my hands through my

4106 has in perplexity.

"I do not know what to think Judge Whitney" I said. "It may be as you say. I look

upon the Chesterbourn as the worse character of tornadoes in the history of Tornadoes, and likely enough the other may have taken after it. I have strong reasons to believe it had something to do with the full disappearance of Lincoln Park, and St Vincents Church & its

rectory and the five story two block university. The first time I get the chance I'll have that part of the calamity investigated. I have only been waiting for some time for an opportunity. I can't very well investigate without an excuse."

The trial of the mystery.

Under my supervision there were three heads of the meeting, President Vice President and Secretary on the meeting bench when Reuben

and the judge came to 4107 testify. Besides members at the meeting the meeting room was crowded for the intention of the meeting had caused some excitement, and the news that what happened to the great Convent, Angel Guardian (Orphange) Orphange, St Vincents Church Church and Rectory, the Park and the Supermarket, Denis Building and so on and that the storm had record breaking explosive force had created quite a sensation of horror and apprehension.

Then Mr John Mc Elision was to give his evidence. He testified that after the darkness and uproar had subsided he had found that as it appeared someone had broken into his room at that time. It was in one of the 31 buildings that yet was not in its path but within easy view of the Convent.

He was not in the habit of locking his door, but heard a funny noise in his room. He found that a box which stood on the dressing room table containing some very valuable jewelry was upside down on the top of the shelves of an open cupboard, that his watch and that of

408 his wife had also been found else where where they had not put them. And this was discovered right away. He couldnt understand the strange freak occurrence. He rang the terrified servants up, and then it was discovered that strangely the lower premises appeared broken into, the plate chest that had been in the butlers pantry was lying upside down or the dining room table but not broken open and nothing any where stolen. He suspected the mysterious doings of an unseen spirit when the Butler cried:

"My God, look at the Sacred Heart Convent. Its nearly all gone."

"What did you think of his sudden exclamation?" Mr. Mac Elusion?"

"I ran to the window window to look out. At first I could see nothing as low down was on the second floor I could see no Convent at all. I went up to the third floor and I still could see nothing. Going near there over debris strewn

streets I saw only a floor 4/09 and a half ~~remains~~ remaining all the rest gone.

The servants proved that they had seen all this. Directly it was discovered the soldiers of the national guard was placed in charge of the grounds near the disintegrated chambers with orders to admit no one among the Chesterbrown survivors and men by auto was sent off to San Sells to report to the Mayor I was sent with them. The survivors of Chesterbrown gave full evidence as to the state of the of the ruined building when we went to Sa Sells."

The Constable who had been sent over to Sa Sells then stepped into the witness box. He testified to the most sudden force of the twister and said that the manner in which it had done its dreadful work and in which the Convent had been almost all blown away and the Dennis building near it turned into clouds of dust seemed or does show that it was the work of the worst and mightiest cyclone on earth. On examining closely the remains

46 of the convent we found it surely is as a most powerful wind to do this for what remained showed it had walls four feet thick and this corresponded with the thickness and solidness of the floor wood work and showing the ~~power~~ power of the explosive force in forcing all this up at a steep angle.

The investigators of the ruins couldnt hardly believe this could have happened.

Every one denied that any tornado ever occurred like this one. Mr McEllison had been present at the time of the calamity when he showed ~~my~~ news ^{carried men} ~~carried men~~ the convent.

On taking pictures of the wreck one of them said at once:

"Why surely the tornado did not really do that"

Upon making inquiries he found that the writer exploded the upper part of the great building and blew it all the way to the four winds. He looked it over

from what was left of 411¹⁵ a tall tree and found that the ruins was worse than it looked from below. The tree was not in the path of the storm. The men identified the strength and solidness of what was left of the building.

Another Constable proved that also. The leaders of the meeting conferred together for a few minutes in an undertone.

"Mrs McEllison" I said addressing that lady who was sitting on a chair placed at the upper end of the meeting hall "we are sorry to trouble you, but we must ask you to go into the witness box I wish to ask you" I went on when she had taken her stand in the box "how it was you at once connected the ruins of the convent with that of the disintegrated Angel Guardian Orphanage?"

"Because it was as strongly constructed as the convent, built by the same Construction Company and of the same material. These two buildings were equally strong and as both were as equally disintegrated or the after

46 noon of the storm
4112 which wiped out the
two places, the whole my-
story had been in my mind
and on seeing the unbelievable
havoc I naturally recognized the
the ruins of both being the same
at once"

There was a deep silence in
the meeting hall when Mrs
Mic Ellison gave her evidence.
Hitherto the impression had
rather that the fury and strength
of the twister had been very
greatly exaggerated. Reuben's
story though strange had by
no means been by no
means impossible and if true
would have completely account-
ed for the magnitude of the
calamity which were the only
evidence against the mighty
twister.

The evidence of Mrs Mic
Ellison however entirely altered
the complexion of the
case. Reuben had stood quiet
and composed during the
hearing. His countenance
had evinced no surprise

when the evidence 4113
was produced. He said to me
later that he had indeed been
thinking the matter over and came
to the conclusion that the twister
had ran wild when heading for
the convent, so such evidence was
no surprise to him. A slight
shade had passed over his face
when Mrs Mic Ellison entered the
witness box.

Glancing at the judge as he told
me while she gave her evidence
Reuben saw that Mrs Mic Ellison
looked greatly vexed and annoyed.
As before at the conclusion of the
evidence of each witness Reuben was
asked if he had any question to
put. He hesitated a moment and
then as before replied firmly to
the negative.

Again the heads of the meet-
ing consulted together.

"Mr Mic Ellison we shall be
obliged if you will enter the
witness box again" I called. He
did so.

"In your former evidence
Mrs Mic Ellison you said nothing
in any way relating to the...

4114 tornado but it now seems
you had a peculiar acquaint-
ance with its character. Will
you tell the meeting assembly
what it is?"

I have not much to say
the judge said "As a sure twister
I came up Halsted Street with its
full fury, a most appalling
windstorm and as it was said
more than a mile wide it did
seem by its action as a twister
like a big water whirlpool
a tornado in a terrible way of
business which as it may be
long afterwards in the memory
of everybody was found to
hit the convent with the
power of most mighty ex-
plosion of more than a mile
size some seven or eight
days ago.

The convent now being
in very much reduced cir-
cumstances is probably a
thing of the past. The tornado
was an unusually violent
type and when it hit the
building it almost took
away the whole place.

4115
It gave us every evidence
of what it could do. My gardener
saw the twister do it and suffered
so much shock that he is not
yet in a condition to come and
testify and it was too dark for
him to distinguish what was going
on then.

At the time I suspected that the
storm was much more severe
than it was suspected to be in
spite of many witnesses denying
that it was not that bad as
they were unable account for where
and how far it was before it
struck and swept most of the
convent away. I looked things
up.

I wish to say publicly that
I have deeply regretted having
not done so earlier and that
I consider I acted too slowly
and wrongly in so doing. Con-
sidering the murderous character
of this immeasurable tornado
I ought not have assumed its
diabolical fury without more
positive evidence than I have
before me that all about it
was not exaggerated.

4116 I may also say that the
is school master of what
will give the dam tornado the
hightest character of horror
for savagery and wildness
that he has known it had
ever since.

His janitor Mr Henfold
is also I believe ready to
testify to the horrid conduct
of the wildest storm ever
known."

"I suppose Mr McEllison"
I said "you have not at any
time since the uprising out
of the convent obtained any
actual evidence which would
show that you were mist-
aken in your first view
and that your subsequent
change of opinion was due
solely to your general view
of the tornado character
so far as you really
know it?"

"That is so" the judge
assented and no further
questioning being asked
he resumed his seat.

His strange evidence 1417
had caused surprise and
some little amusement in the
meeting hall. It was clear that
there was a strong difference
of opinion between him and
his wife on the subject and that
while the lady had something like
an animus against the storm
the judge believed she exaggerated
most of it. After some consultation
I said:

The meeting will be adjourned
untill after dinner time and
resume at one and during that
time to see to see if further
evidence is forthcoming, but I may
say that under the present circum-
stances of the case we shall feel
ourselves obliged to send it for
trial after dinner. The judges
account of the proceedings of
the cyclone from the time it
left the ruins of the convent
behind on that fatal afternoon
up to that time of uprising out
the near by Angel Guardian
orphanage admitted to have greater
force shattering there may be
true but so far it is entirely

46 14 unsupported, on the
d 4118 other hand we have the
s evidence of the immeasurable
the destruction admitted to be done
b done by the strongest tornado on
e all record coming all the way
h from Johnson town.

We have the further important fact that it had started with its freakish head and bulging face forming near Johnson town and had as it may be supposed some cause to go a bee line course all the way, it had cruised and devastated all the north side of Gleason City, and had been responsible for the wiping out of the magnificent Gleason asylum and there is reason for the belief that the fiercest devastating everything in Chesterhire was caused by its gained gaining great strength, as it progressed onward.

"Will it be any use my calling evidence as to the character of the twister?"

Reuben asked, 4119
"No" I said "evidence of that kind will be useful only after or during the next debate, when the matter will be thoroughly sifted. We only have to decide that there is primo facie evidence connecting to the tornado with the unusual devastation and of that there is not the slightest doubt."

As no fresh evidence was produced Reuben sat down. Public opinion in the 20 balls meeting house ran high on the subject of the force of the storm and what it did to the Sacred Heart convent. The rescuers were strongly in the belief that no other cyclone could have ever done that and they pointed out that its bee line course must have been connected with the terrible business that no storm of what kind had ever been seen anyone anywhere like that one, it was likely to have any connection with other bad character of twisters.

Was it probable if any other tornadoes had gone about such a

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4120 job as that it would have been the same. Upon the other hand opinion in general ran strongly against it. Reuben's story that things about the twisters strength and fury being exaggerated was declared to be utterly improbable and a storm which had once been on a bee line for an unknown cause would be likely at any time time to rage like blinding revenge upon anything that happened to be actually in its path.

As to Mr McEllis's declaration of his subsequent opinion that he acted hastily in his unsecure investigation little weight was attached to it. Everyone knew the judge was a diligently investigation man and as he acknowledged himself that he had obtained no evidence which would satisfy him that he investigated investigated too slowly and wrongly in the first case, it was clear that it was fear of the dangerous

ruins of the convent 4421
that he had changed his mind on the subject. At Chesterbown the subject was never mentioned. The judge and his wife had a debate about it the judge saying

"If any one had told me before that the storm was a vindictive cyclone against Heaven and old Mother I would not have believed it."

"I might not do so now but I should know in my heart that they had spoken truly."

For some reason or other the storm in wrecking that convent seemed to have had a terrific insane prejudice against God and old Mother Nature and would believe that even buildings like that could stand before it. I was ~~shou~~ shocked downright shocked about what it did when you gave your truthful evidence against it at the meeting."

Then Reuben exclaimed:
"Was there ~~not~~ even such an unfortunate city as poor Chesterbown as it is now? Here it devastated as if it had committed the sin of Sodom two times of which it

4/22 is innocent and from which indeed in the present case the whole country is a sufferer because of total & total and never ending disruption of all kinds of traffic and communications and all this has come about simply because a tornado came along which had a force that no other could equal, and no one could conceive."

"Tell me more about it Reuben" I said. I have heard the first statement you made to head of the meeting, but tell it to me again with every detail you can think of. Some circumstance which appears to you as trifling may furnish a clue."

"I have seen Mr Bandeko the lawyer I have told him all that the twister did within my sight after it got lighter." Reuben said. "But of course I gladly will tell you again."

And Reuben repeated the story of the storm as much as what he had seen it do with every detail that he

could think of speak - 4/23
ing slowly as I wrote it down at length.

I will see what I can make of it when I think it over" I said. "Of course as it stands it is no natural and probable that if it can be clear what really happened at once it could be proved what happened if it had not been for that unfortunate business before of the mysterious disappearance of the upper three quarters of the Convent and all within except two, and the supposition excited by it that something more than the Tornado had something to do with it."

I shall be able partly to dispose of that, for I can swear that you have frequently spoken to me of the beautiful Convent & in tones of respect and liking and that although you regretted the manner in which it fairly stated to be tornado proof you felt no astonishment on account of the disaster. More over I shall be able to prove that the reason you gave of having seen little of what occurred because of the

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darkness was a true
4124 one, and although I
cannot swear that we ex-
pected you especially to see
anything going on at all the
fact that you observed what
happened when it grew a
little lighter cannot but
corroborate your story. I shall
get leave for two or three
days and try my best to
hunt up the evidence.

"Thank you very, very
much" Reuben said though I
have been thinking it over
and do not see that the evi-
dence of the convent's destruc-
tion would help me much.
As it was too dark to see what
really happened it will simply
prove that the twister tore
through that district almost
unseen, but did not show
in any way whether I storm
loose away the convent or not
as one of the worst kind
of twisters or not which
tore up every where on its
course a ~~whole~~ whether
it took off all of the

upper part of the Convent 4125
or not?"
"Your friends can probably prove
that you looked pale and exhausted
and terrified at what you did see when
it grew lighter" I said.

"I fancy I should look pale in
any case" Reuben said if after I had
gone through such an afternoon's work
as that of what I had seen after
a that darn tornado had passed
me by."

Well keep up your courage Reu-
ben. You may be quite sure that
your friends will do all in their power
for and help you get down to the
bottom of this. I shall now go
and have a chat with your good
mother. I believe y she will know
more about this than you do."

"Yes Reuben agreed I believe
so. Somehow I don't seem to
take it to heart much. I shall feel
it more afterwards, perhaps, -but
at present the whole thing is
so extraordinary that I can't quite
realize that such a thing could
happen and that beautiful most
magnificent Gleason Orphanage
Even the Palace on the Emerald

4126 city of Oz could not compare to it. The worst of it is that if I had the chance to see all the tornado did lots of people would think that I was absolutely exaggerating. There is only one thing that can really prove what happened I believe, and that is question Sister Marie St. Clare. She is in as a patient in Simon Segrees barn. Also little Mildred Mary Maxwell."

"I hear" the Chief head of the meeting said that they had already told what had happened, and how they were so severely injured. I also hear the Chief Constable has ~~now~~ written to the authorities at St. Salle for them to question them again for further details. Whether they believe their stories or not it is quite evident that more than they were survivors. There is the Chief Engineer, his assistant, and the fireman who were in the basement at the time of the calamity.

Their theory is of course that the head Sister and

the little girl were not on 4127 the upper floors at the time and got caught in the wreckage in the front of the building that only collapsed which was a very severe shambles at that

I went down yesterday with Michael Bellen Jones to see the spot where the front collapsed. There were uplifted shambles where the wreckage failed to go down all the way holding up the rest and flooring while the rest of the front looks like it was tumbled down by an earthquake leaving the ruined rooms exposed all of which goes to prove that their story of their narrow escape may be true, but unfortunately it does not prove that they escaped entirely as they are seriously injured because according to the theory you were under the wreckage for thirty hours."

"But in that case" Buelbern said "Why should the twister have taken all the upper floors away and hurl down the front of the building into a shambles?"

"Yes there is of course that question" I myself said thoughtfully,

4128 but then on the other hand, how did they get caught in that avalanche of wreckage and survive? And probably the wind while sweeping most of the convent, tumbled the front part down by vigorous shaking of that part of the building.

In both cases the building was destroyed and also in both cases the answer is the same, the storm did it as a freak and blew away the rest of the building away from the scene. And the storm didn't like to 'murder' those two because of the 'consequences' to itself, but it would not risk saving the structure so it tumbled down the front into a shambles. It cuts both ways you see."

"So it does" Reuben assented "It's just a question of belief and I owe myself that also the Gleason Orphan Asylum business is very much against the storm, and that I can't blame any one who considers old Mother Nature guilty."

Reuben's case on his shot 4129 witnessing of what the damage done to the convent was taken up again, and occasioned a good deal of interest in La Salle partly owing to the position of Judge McEllison, partly to the nature of the witnessing set up as to which opinion was a good deal divided among them.

The evidence of the questioning about the convent's strange destruction was to a great extent similar to that given at the inquiry that morning. Unfortunately for Reuben the head man was notoriously as a severe one on this mystery and his bias from the first appeared to be against the witness. Mr McEllison was closely questioned by the head of the committee as to what he witnessed of the convent's destruction so this was considered to show a very particular animus on the part of Diabern also witnessing it, he again repeated his conviction of Reuben's really witnessing the whole affair.

"But what reason have you

4136 Mr Mc Ellison the counsel
for the witness asked blandly
for changing your opinion
on the subject. The tornado as
we all know did cause the dis-
appearance of the upper part of
the convent and all its inmates
except two?"

This was just the question
that the judge could not really
answer to their satisfaction
and also was a particularly
irritating one because it often
had been triumphantly
asked by his wife.

I can really give no main
particular reason as I was not
as much a witness to the great
calamity as Reuben was. Dark-
ness and clouds of wreckage
with swirling fogs of dust from
buildings being wrecked
obscured everything. Also again
I can really give no particular
reason except that on full
reflection that the storm had
wild character and most
horrible strength and force
and antecedents convinced
me that no dozen lig-

tornados put together would 4/31
not have a fraction of
strength and therefore could not
have done such an act."

"In fact" the counsel said surely
you were influenced by your mediation
and by your own feeling of heart.
Mr Mc Ellison in thus laying
aside a conclusion which the facts
had at the time forced upon you,
that causes you on very much to
exaggerate this?"

"I don't look upon it in that
light" the judge replied shortly,
as I said before that in the first
instance that (twelve) twelve tornados
put together could not match in
a fraction the strength and force
of this one."

"I'm afraid Judge Ellison" the
counsel said: "that you will not
persuade any one here to agree
with you. In me & our main
president of this meeting Mr
Dexter."

"I again don't look upon it
in that light" the judge replied
again. I consider again in the
first instance that if I acted
harshly and unwisely in my

4132 statement then tell me
4132 so. I tell this to you again
about twelve tornadoes put
together could not match the
fraction of the force of this
one. and you dont believe it,
I've told it to you three times
and so I'll admit than I
can. scarcely expect you of
this meeting to put more
faith in it than if I was
the biggest liar of all. So I
condition and consideration
dont see how I done so. I still will
stick to my statement"

"Well then" I myself said
have only one or two questions
to ask you, for indeed your
evidence is as I think all
here will agree altogether
in favor of your first state-
ment. In the first place
was the tornado when within
your sight pulling away the
whole down before like a
blizzard wind blows the
snowflake?"

"Not that I know of" the
judge replied, certainly in
the shroud obscuring the

the maulin storm? 4133
could not see what it was
doing. Indeed it would be very
impossible for any tornado to
do such a thing to such a
strong building as the Convent, Gleason
Orphanage, Angel Guard orphanage, or the
Supermarket or the big St Vincents
Church if I was exaggerating my
statement. You can believe it or
not I'm surprised any of the Convent
is ever left there.

Indeed it would seem impossible
than any ordinary tornado could do
this. Certainly it could even not
tear through the streets of the city with
such blinding and immeasurable
force if it did not have such force
I stated. It could not have possibly
done so without all that strength.
I give my statement you dont at
all believe it. I've told it to many
others they did not believe it. I
now tell it you and I can scarcely
expect you to put more faith
in it than they did. But still stick
to my news come what may."

"The return therefore Mrs Ellison
is really twelve against one? Would
anyone therefore have any means
of possessing any knowledge as to the

1134 internal arrangements
of the twister beyond that
of its downward and downward
upward currents
maybe so maybe not. Mr
Mc Ellison replied.

"Now as to that unfortunate
affair of the destruction of those
buildings you mention. Your
opinion as to the force of the
storm in that matter is not
a recent one - but the outcome
of its after force and most
irresistible character as you
stated?"

"Not at all Mr Sarges" the
judge said, "But I don't at all
change my opinion on the
matter. Indeed after the second
breaking catastrophe. Why
should I deny my statement
indeed after the affair. I won't
change it."

When did you start having
that opinion as to such a force
of the tornado surely not exactly
of the outcome of its after
strong force and more violent
character?"

"Not at all" Mr Mc Ellison
said, to me who was still

very disbelieving I never 4135
will change my opinion on
the matter of the affair whether
you or others believe it or
not.

"Within a few days I think I may
say?" I asked.

"Within a few days; I may almost
say within a few hours" the judge
replied. "Also Reubens story told not
to me but to others, that he believed
a thousand tornados in one could
not have such force as this one
and which had turned out such
a exceedingly bad character struck
me: he did a lot exaggeration from
his excitement over his experience
and also struck me as after all
being very much more probable
than any other tornado could do
it itself."

"Then" I exclaimed "how is it the
storm did not sweep all of the city
of Chesterbrown before it?"

"It almost did" he answered.

"What's your opinion all you members
of this meeting to his statement
right or was wrong?"

"We'll have to debate on that like
a jury does over an accused criminal.
So far we think his statement is fifty fifty."

4136 "All right so be it" I said,
Mrs Ellison was next
called. Her evidence as to the
strength of the storm was a
mere repetition of that given by
the judge, I then turned to the
question of how her opinion was
which whether twelve tornados
put together could not have a
fraction of the strength of the
Chesterbourn honor.

"I would rather say nothing
about it" Mrs Mc Ellison said.
"It is a matter which has
been productive of much terror
panic and pain to me and I
would rather say nothing
about it"

"But you must madam" I
said sharply "you are here
under obligation to answer any
questions which may enable
all members at this meeting
to form an opinion on this
case"

"I'm sorry to press you Mrs.
Mc Ellison the counsel con-
tinued "but I really must do
so. You took the same opinion
to that held by your husband?"

I regret to say that I 4137
do! Mrs Mc Ellison told me the
reasons he had for suspecting the
tornado had that awful strength
and fury. I thought these reasons
sufficient and like him I have seen
no cause for changing my opinion.
The walls of those buildings mentioned
had walls three and a half feet wide
or more and the flooring was
exceedingly strong. So if the storm
did not have such force how could it
wreck those buildings?"

"That is for all the members at
this meeting to decide" I said.

After the evidence for the
"prosecution" of the tornado had been
given the counsel for the witnesses
pointed out there was in fact no
evidences whatever connecting Reuben,
Mc Ellison or his wife with false-
hood or exaggeration in their state-
ment, beyond what they say they
observed after it grew lighter and
the storm had passed, and as
to this trumpety story of their descrip-
tion being exaggerated we regard it
as altogether contemptible.

When a (tornado) tornado
meant to obliterate a house like those
mentioned it did so because it had

41 4138 the most immeasurable
and inconceivable force
and not being just a mere
sort of this ^{Ocean} tornado any malice
the against nature? And these three
persons felt like exaggeration de-
sign then it is a ridiculous charge
against them. But so far as can
be seen there is no foundation
for that charge brought against
this statement.

And we all already had Mr.
McAllister declare that he did not
regret that he suspected it had
that unusual force and that he
believed twelve twisters put to-
gether into one could have one
third that strength.

But even had it been proved
up to the hilt that the three
witnesses had greatly exaggerated
their statement they should still
hold as wholly unconnected
with the present matter.

If they had exaggerated their
statement what then? It was not
a heinous sin nor would it
affect their moral character.

No person likes to see his

home turned into a cloud 1439
of dust and debris by a damn old
tornado savage in nature and those
would have been nothing
so very dreadful had he exaggerated
the strength of the cyclone. It was
probable that even among the
members of this meeting there was
one or more who if he had not
absolutely exaggerated any state-
ment, for what a windstorm did
a wrecking up his property had
threatened to do so, and would
not have regarded it as a very
serious crime - had he absolutely
done so.

Many exaggerate without think-
ing. Therefore he contended that
the members of this meeting should
put this trumpety idea of their
exaggeration altogether out of
their minds on the double ground
that in the first place, the three
witnesses did not exaggerate their
statement and had they done so
it would have had nothing
whatever to do with the upsetting out
of those strong buildings especially the
Sacred Head Convent there.

"Why gentlemen" he said "it is
an insult to your understanding."

4140 to ask you to credit that these three persons whose character which I shall present to you by unimpeachable evidence is of the highest kind has since the tornado cherished such malice against the twist for its havoc that they should try and exaggerate its strength, that they have become the consort of make-believe or falsified persons, has stained their good character by telling lies and rendered themselves liable to disqualification for the purpose of exaggeration.

Such a contention would be absolutely absurd. I must beg you to dismiss it altogether from your mind and approach it from a different standpoint altogether.

Divested of this extraneous business the matter is a most simple one. I am an old man here. I was ten, going on eleven, when I saw the construction of the Sacred Heart Convent and was what was used to build it. I was twenty one years old when I saw its completion.

To what I heard it cost 4141 a hundred million to erect for the awfully expensive and strong material used. I had been inside often and the magnificence and beautiful outside and interior of its rooms could not be matched by Ozma's Palace in the Emerald City of Oz. I believe many of you have read those famous books. Tornado proof Ho. Ho. Look at it now. It's only has been. And you don't believe their statement of how strong the tornado was.

The storm left only a floor and a half the story high and the rest is a sagging shambles. The upper parts with all the children, ladies and others vanished as to say into thin air.

Reuben left his mother's house at four o'clock in the afternoon to go over to Church for an afternoon mass to attend. He took with him his prayer book as he had promised to say some prayers for a friend.

On the way he noticed an unusual darkness coming on which he thought was another

4142 (Thunderstorm storm coming.
While still on the way he
heard some strange sound like
a large crowd of dogs howling at
one time. Thinking it very strange
he went towards the west to
see what it was and some distance
off he saw something like a wide
thick fog coming swiftly towards
him and he saw and heard
enough to inform him a cyclone
was coming.

He was about to make off to
save himself when he was
suddenly caught up by a gale of
wind of unusual force and
flung down into the base-
ment of that house not in its
path.

While lying insensible he
was found by rescuers and left in
one of the hastily constructed shelters
built for the least wounded where
he remained until the doctor
pronounced him out of danger.

Yet being greatly exhausted
from loss of blood it was late
in the evening before he
aroused in the vicinity of what
had been left of the convent.

4143
Whom he at once observed
what he described, & his gentleman
is Reuben's story as related to us
all when he came to this meeting.

Nothing can be simpler or more
probable and in some points at least
I shall be able to confirm it by
independent testimony.

Mr Shrewberry will tell you
that Reuben had arranged to go to
an afternoon mass and to bring
his mass Russel, he will also tell
you that two days after Reuben's
experience and severe head injury
he went with Hines Jones the La-
Salle City Constable and found what
was said of the devastation of the
convent was true, not even half of
it was left standing.

Some wreckage from the lower
part of the convent was found in
that basement into which he was
flung while just inside down
there dust with was trampled with
the feet of his rescuers and among
the debris on a flat board was a
great dark patch which he was
able to ascertain to be blood.

Doctor Johnson will tell you
that he was called in to bandage up

4144 the injured boy's head after his rescue and that the cut was a very severe one and must have been inflicted by something heavy flung at his head by the force of the wind. I am convinced gentlemen that after hearing this evidence you will agree with me not only that the three are perfectly innocent of the change of gross exaggeration but that he also had no chance to see what the inexorable twister did and that it is a matter of surprise and regret that you do not believe the statement of the three and that the head magistrate of the meeting should have permitted the statement for trial when the shadow of evidence against the strength of the tornado can be totally proven by the discovery of what it did a discovery which they at once explained.

Of other evidence there is plenty. If not so how could the wind wipe out totally such a big strongly building as the magnificent Gleason

exchange, the Sacred Heart 4145 convent and the Angel Guardian orphanage - St. Vincent's church the Dennis building and the supposed overstrong Supermarket?

Some say there was no evidence or of evidence there is not one jot or tittle. Oh no. What about the wiping out of Chesterbourn and all these biggest building. Of course so far no attempt has been made to prove that twelve twisters put together has far less force than this one, no attempt has been made to show their connection or any connection whatever between them and this one which came tearing through the town for the purpose of wiping out the convent and these buildings and which as we know did effect such wanton devastation.

No scrap of the upper part of the convent or all its inmates except two had been found anywhere even up till now. There had been a report that the bodies of all those children, nuns and others had been found as far as in the wreck strewn streets of Terre Haute (Indiana) Indiana carried that far by the storm. The inhabitants of Terre Haute said there had been no trace of them there.

4145 For Reubin in order to
on account for the severe wound
on his head the counsel
for the "prosecution" of the storm
has started the statement that
the storm hit him with some
heavy instrument as it flying him
headfirst in that basement.

And that was the case gentle-
men and he did not even know
what hit him. Then how could
any one exaggerate? Everything
totally destroyed by this mail-
storm of the air we would like
to naturally have put the
Weather Bureau on its track
track and as they ought to get
into communication of its wildly
devastated course and well
acquainted with the ways of
big tornadoes they could have
given information which would
lead to the truth whether
twelve tornados put together in
one would be far less in
strength than this one
would be. They could have
well done this for the
main Weather Bureau in
Washington would have

made no difficulty at 4146
all whatever in promising Weather
Bureau men like them a final
reward on condition of them turning
evidence against the Tornado;

Tornado on Trial.

I say again they could have well
done this for even the very country
main government at Washington would
have made no difficulty whatever
in promising the weather Bureau like
this an advanced commission on condition
they could find proof that this twister
did beat twelve put together in one,
whose mode of procedure shows it
to be the most powerful tornado
on all record and which no doubt
destroyed the strongest buildings
in the world and which no other
tornado has taken place in any
part of this country before.

In this case old Mother Nature
on that August 15th of the assumption
of Our Lady God produced a homicidal
hannidan with the deceptively
gentle name of Verman. This twister
struck our cities here with such

4147 winds of such unexpected scale that all Weather Bureaus throughout the whole country called it the greatest 'explosion' of the air of any kind that has ever effected any part of the nation.

This tornado I firmly believe on the ~~two~~ three said blew harder than any cyclone on all record, twice than twelve put together in one, and was the deadliest killer since 1900 in September when hurricane Mary Jane took thousands of lives in Galveston Texas and wiped that city out.

This tornado hurled herself at Chester town with a force worse than twelve big ones or one uprooting the city with eggshell smashing force ravaging killing in the awesome kinetic fury more than any tornado had ~~done~~ ever done.

As you know my friends of this meeting this killer haridan wrecked its greatest havoc on the convent and the largest ap-hanges in

the world and she did 4148 not slow down as she tore onward and unexpectedly exploded into torrents of rain and horrible winds as she sliced through Chester chire, Runnyberry and Zaneville before suruling towards Terre Haute Indiana.

This tornado is the worst one of all. Anyone could come before you and give you evidence of the extremely high most dangerous character that any storm ever bore. Mr Shrewberry tell you that Reuben has for the last ten years devoted no inconsiderable portion of his time to improve his education and study on hurricane and tornado weather and to enable him to discover what tornadoes generally do their measured strength for he could do this.

I shall leave the case in your hands, gentlemen, with an absolute confidence that you will without a moments hesitation finding a verdict proclaiming that the statement of my three friends is true and enable them to leave this meeting hall without it having been exaggerated which might leave a stain upon the character of those three."

Mr Shrewberry was the first witness

4148 called for the defense after stating that no early time was settled for the storm coming up and than no one ever expected any disaster of any kind, he also detailed his visit to the Angel Guardian orphanage, the result of his observation there gave the tornado the most horrible character saying that he had never saw a tornado so strong before and that it was the most greatest and strongest tornado that had ever struck anywhere in the nation by any yardstick you want to measure with, and that he had absolute confidence in the integrity and honesty in their statement that twelve twisters put together as one could not have a fraction of the force of this awful homicidal harridan.

"They have from the first" he said, proved the most intelligent and hard working people on investigating storms anxious to improve themselves and to get on in trying to investigate the speed and force of these storms.

They have learned all that others could teach them on

tornadoes and more. They 4150 are the last persons in the world whom should consider ~~capable~~ with capable of the exaggeration which they are charged. The twister signalled her foe formation by suddenly assuming the girl head of a strangling child with far out protruding tongue which became the cyclone.

As to the tornado having any vicious animosity to old Mother Nature (maybe it would be better if she married one) any one can swear it cant be beat. The orderly at Simon Segrees Hospital barn where Reuben was taken proved that he was struck with his appearance when he was brought in to have his head bandaged that he was very pale and seemed scarcely able to walk."

Mr Penfold was the next witness. He said that the tornado statement of force by Reuben must be true, that Reuben had studied for years on these harridan storms, and that his investigations and discoveries had been most excellent, and was a most excellent investigator and that he was remarkably quick and intelligent in all he does and also was an excellent observer on hurricanes. During all his later years of investigations that

4151 that he had been employed
in he had never lost a
day."

"At the time this storm happened
here Mr Penfold" the counsel asked
"were you aware that Reuben summa-
rily investigated how it wrecked
so strong a building as the Sacred
Heart Convent?"

"I was aware of that fact" Mr
Penfold answered and Reuben looked
with great surprise at his friend.

"From whom did you hear of
it?"

"I heard it from the Bureau of
Investigation itself, a member of it
called upon me about the matter"

"How was it he came to call upon
you, Mr Penfold,

"To find out what I knew of the
situation. He had applied to me about
what Reuben said he knew about this
twister. I asked about the strength
of this unusual ^{King} 'hondo' storm and
said it was not my custom to
pay any attention to the wild
rage of twisters unless I have
proof of them and their insurmountable
ferocious nature; The man of the
Bureau of investigation said he

did not believe a hundred 415-2
hurricanes in one could match
this tornado, and I thought that was
an end of the matter until a
few days later Mr Mc Ellision
called upon me and said that he
had heard from Mr Shrewsbury how
matters stood and that Reuben's state-
ment had fallen through owing to
his being unable to find more proof.
about the strength of the storm. I said this
was so.

Mr Mc Ellision then said that he
was prepared to make up the defic-
iency over the statement, that he had
a great regard for the magnificent convent
and that moreover he himself had
through a hasty misconception regard-
ing the destruction also of that enormously
strong Wicker Castle discharged the idea
that this tornado was not as strong as
it was to be, and that he felt uneasy
in his mind at having been guilty
of a piece of injustice.

Over and above the statement
he gave plenty of description about
the force of the cyclone in order that
I might investigate it for the first
time which he said would be a
matter of consequence to the connection
of the tornado. My friends I don't believe

4153 that the whirlpool of the awful
maelstrom between Sofoden and the
coast of Norway could have the
same honor as this winter had.
He requested me on no account

to let Mrs Whitney know that he had
intervened in the matter but to re-
present that I had changed my mind
and was to take the responsibility of
this strange and horrible mystery.

He was particularly anxious
on this point because he said she
would certainly refuse to accept
assistance from anyone owing to
that unfortunate affair about the
tornado.

I may say that from that time
to this I have not mentioned the
fact to any one.

There was a loud movement of
applause in the meeting hall
as Mr Penfold gave his evidence and
Reuben looked gratefully towards Mr
Mc Ellison and said heartily

"I thank you sir with all my
heart"

The foreman of the Relief
Committee was next examined.
He confirmed the high character
Mr Penfold had given
Reuben and adding that he

4154 that he never tried to
exaggerate anything he spoke of
and had spent his time almost
on all investigations of tornadoes
and other cyclones.

The counsel for the prosecution
if possible against the tornado this
addressed all the members and threw
great credit upon the narrative of the
three, which he said was supported in
any material whatever.

That they because of the dark-
ness they didn't see what the storm
did to the convent is likely enough
and Reuben being blown into that base-
ment prevented him from seeing
anything and which he received the
blow from the flank of which you have
heard

My My learned friend has told you
to dismiss from your mind the question
about that statement of twelve tornadoes
put into one cannot match this honor
but it is impossible for you to do so.

You have seen that the Convent
was almost wiped out and all its im-
mense grounds devastated and that
the evidence is so strong that no
one can dismiss it from their minds.

It is true that Mr Ellison told
you what he cannot change his mind

4155 on the subject but after the evidence which Mr. Benford has given of the stated force of the cyclone you will readily understand that all great stress can be laid upon this. The matter so far from being trivial as some try to represent it, is highly important in as much as here we find that the strongest buildings ever constructed have been totally wiped out or reduced in a mere shambles.

It is clear because also even now still that all over the whole country even from So. Delle would be ignorant of all news and the where abouts of our devastated cities and other places. Because of the total destruction of all communications by wire and railroads and were not likely to have come down provided to receive all reports of this immeasurable catastrophe had they not been informed from newspapers well acquainted with the territory of the steps that would have to be taken before any news could be effected throughout this

whole country. All roads 4156 still are utterly impassable. The railroad bridges wiped out by the dozen and will be for months. The storm ripped up trees that no other storm had ever done tore up dirt roads railroad beds like paper. Not a railroad on a dozen lines has any bridges. This horror is worst than the Dayton flood.

And she poured upon us after passing up to ten inches of rain. The biggest houses were smashed like toys. Big railroad passenger coaches on railroad sidings tumbled end over end. Giant grain Elevators tumbled about and reduced to shambles. And you deny that twelve twisters in one could match this past terror?

You will therefore see the extreme importance of this point. It is estimated that the property loss of the Gibson, and Angel Guardian, Vaphango, the Cement and the Supermarket, is one billion dollars.

"I am also perfectly ready to admit" "What a minute" I interrupted. "What did you say the loss of those four places was?"

"One billion dollars. Don't you believe it?"

"You are absolutely wrong" I said. According

4156 to the newspaper that was
the loss of the Gleason Orphanage
alone." There was a moment of silence
after that statement and all had tears
in their eyes while many cursed the twister
bitterly.

"Also I am perfectly ready to admit
that the evidence as of a wholly cir-
cumstantial nature but from the nature
of the case it is necessary that this
should be so. The Angeline Guardian
(Orphanage) Orphanage is property of the
Convent. Had the orphans been in it
or in the school across the street, there
would be no orphans.

Of course the loss of life among
them and the injured was terrific
but yet there were far a greater number
of survivors than killed or injured.
As to the school it is a thing of the
past. And you don't believe the
statement of Mrs and Mrs McEllison
and Reuben?

Don't be such fools. Had Reuben
not been thrown into that basement
it is probable that much evidence
would have been forthcoming of
what had really happened to the
Convent. It is however for you to
weigh the probabilities of the

case you have to consider 4157
whether whether their theory which
they have laid before you as to
the connection of the twelve against
this one or this wild story that it is
not probable. I believe very firmly believe
that which the three tell us is the
most probable.

I could sum up with a very strong
bias against the tornado. The evidence
for the character of the twister is of course
of great importance and can be readily
relied upon completely. The tornado
appeared undoubtedly to be what it is
accused of, but unfortunately my own
experience has told me that many
tornadoes were storms of most unusual
violence.

Stress has been laid by the very
Council for the statement upon the
fact that any twelve tornadoes put to-
gether as one could be known at any
time to match this one with its awesome
most homicidal homicidal hand and
immeasurable fury and to have con-
sisted with suspicious suspicious violence
of any other kind and this after
all is more than negative evidence.

Tornado affairs of this kind were
always conducted with indescribable
fury and had one of these come up

1458 from the Southwest line
4158 this one did called 'Sweetie Pie'
what would have happened,
as was probable enough
to make havoc of old Mother Nature
herself and which could not be
broken up it would not right away
make itself conspicuous.

We have heard the two stories
and must judge for ourselves and
we agree with the counsel and the
three others for the evidence and
and the prosecution of the storm,
that the fact that the winter
had totally destroyed these most
magnificent buildings and also
annihilated their inmates and that
on the fatal afternoon of August 15th
15th, other magnificent buildings
were found to be a thing of the past
and that even all of Chesterbrown
was wiped out could not but
have a greater power than 12
tornadoes put together.

At the same time he would tell
them that if they had a doubt in
their minds it was their duty
to give the three persons the
benefit of that doubt."

Everyone consulted together for
a minute or two and then

expressed their desire to re- 4159
turn to the common community room.
A huge of talk arose in the meet-
ing hall before they entered into
the room, everybody including me.
Opinion was divided as what the verdict
would be.

When the counsel for the defense of
the statement sat down the general
opinion was that the opinion of the
three would be considered perfectly
correct, and the speech of the counsel
for the ~~prosecution~~ 'prosecution' of the
of the storm and the ~~summoning~~
summoning up of myself had caused
a reaction and few doubted now that
the verdict against the tornado would
be guilty.

So Reuben himself thought. It was
he felt hard that ~~stern~~ standing
there to have his statement declared
right the decision should in fact
depend upon the unjust destruction
of the Convent and Gleason Ophange
and soon which had been brought
against the tornado.

Reuben was in the habit of what
he called arguing things out for
himself, and as he sat there in
the debatement room waiting for
the decision he tried to put himself

4160 in the position of all the other members, and he felt that in that case he should have difficulty in coming to a decision. It was not until the lamps had been lit or lighted that the head members came into the debate room.

The crier shouted for order and there was not a sound heard as the foreman told me they that they had not yet to decision.

So the debate continued. Most of the men looked worried and tired. Another person passed and some one said:

"We have come to a full decision."

"Then are you agreed gentlemen as to the decision you find in this case?" I asked.

"We are Mr Danger" the foreman replied.

"Do you find Reuben true and Mr Mc Elliston correct or not correct in their statement?"

"Perfectly correct Mr Danger"

"Very well gentlemen" I said 4161 lastly "Is your decision not mine. Then the tornado is guilty of having more than twelve tornados as one?"

"Yes Mr Danger"

At the foreman's last words a thrill had run through the debate room for the belief had been general that the majority were for a conviction against the tornado. Reuben himself had so understood it and the decision was no surprise to him, and his friend Mr Shrewberry pushed forward and shook him warmly by the hand.

"Thank God and our Blessed Mother of God for that decision Reuben. I am indeed rejoiced, and I own I hardly expected it"

"I didn't expect it at all" Reuben said in a choked voice, for the winning the decision had shaken him more than his fear of defeat would have been.

"I congratulate you heartily Reuben" Mr Ellison said putting his hand on his shoulder. Mr Mc Elliston had waited so late the previous evening, and had driven over again the first thing in the morning so anxious was he about the decision. "I didn't believe

4162 we d win from the first?
was glad indeed to hear the
decision the cause after Mr Wagners
summing up now the ^{was} ^{soberly} ^{hope}
unclear and now the ^{was} ^{soberly} ^{hope}

"he said as everyone sat down 'That you have not forgotten the cause of the disaster. The verdict of Guilty ~~do~~ against the tornado does not enable us to ~~connect~~ connect the tornado, and does not solve the mystery. It cannot never be solved. Yet it has been the unfortunate cause of getting old Mother Nature into this affair. Had it not been for that no one would ever for a moment have doubted the truth of your story."

"There was nothing to fear Mr McEllison," Reuben said.

"That is right my lad" Mrs Mac
Ellisdon said "I'm glad that matter is
made up & myself had gone not
only three days to see the devastated
country & a lot of what remained
looked as if it had been thrown
down by a most strong earthquake.
The main most magnificent front
was a shambles,

When I came aboard abreast of the center of the star stream.

street a large number of survivors of Chester Brown and also important investigators and officials of Sea Balle were standing talking in low tones, and looking with horror at the blasted Convent. Those did not indeed venture to express openly their deploration of what had proceeded, but the muttered execrations and curses that rose from the large groups showed how deep were their feelings.

joined a little knot of three or four men,

"All is lost you see" one of them said to me in a tone of deep commiseration-"The storm struck with great vengeance, and that is a poor consolation for all those still waiting outside for news of their missing children".

"All is ~~now~~ really lost one of the other men said." The storm made every thing and all the children and others in the upper part of the convent disappear. What can we do about it now? I could cry like a whipped child to think we poor humans are so helpless in the face of there honor."

At this Reuben gave a cry of horror
in which all the rest joined some
spewing out voluble curses against the
tornado. After his cry Reuben was

4164 silent and sank down
on his chair and sat there
with his face hidden in
his hands for some minutes
while some of the meeting hall
members posed question after
question upon McEllison.

Presently Reuben rose to his
feet and saying to everyone
"I am not going away, I shall
be back presently, I must think
by myself" and went out into
the outer hall.

It was half an hour before
he returned.

"When I first heard about the
awful disaster I felt staggered as with
a blow from an iron bar, I went also
to see the ruins and the survivors
in the street were furious that this
wretched tornado should have
carried off the upper parts of
the building and all those sweet
creatures, men and others into
total disappearance and those twelve
famous little singers who were
so good to everyone.

But what could anyone do
against such storms. It is now
planned by the Relief Committee

to send a number of officials 4165-
for two orphan children who would
look alike of the ones that poor
half insane woman lost in the great
convent disaster.

When I saw the convent I walked on
slowly untill some distance from the
sad house and then threw myself down
on some rubble and lay for some
time silent and despairing.

At last tears came to my relief
and my broad shoulders shook with a
passion of sobbing to think of so many
children disappearing like that. It was
maddening.

But after a time the passion of
weeping calmed down and I sat up
suddenly and rose to my feet and headed
for home. I found that horrible as the
unbelievable atrocities committed by the
tornado at the Gleason Asylum they were
even surpassed beyond measure by those
which had been enacted of the
convent and Angel Guardian Orphanage
and that of the convent in partic-
ular the war the most terrible
calamity of all.

The terror was still universal.
The news of its destruction and the
mysterious vanishing of its inmates
had heightened the dismay. I felt almost

crushed under my responsibility. There was never such a tornado as this. What I had observed tried me greatly. The terrible events and the long strain of anxiety and the news of the convent and the Angel Guardian Orphanage disaster had completely exhausted my strength and seemed to have aged me as many years.

And now my fellow members this storm is to stand forth on the eyes of the whole world as a bloodstained wind monster the devastating wind enemy not of cities and towns only but of humanity and old Mother Nature in general.

This storm is the worst of them. There is something straightforward about other tornadoes. It was a terrible enemy of Nature even and coming along at us stuck at nothing. It was ruthless and pitiless.

It was twelve times more dangerous than the Omaha cyclone and was like a wild beast broken loose from a snare. It had with inconceivable savagery and fury. This

4167
storm was simply as venomous as the worst cobra. I found armed debris around the ruins of the convent, shattered articles of furniture, handsome clocks, magnificent pictures, bedding and more things which would take too long to mention.

The lofty mirrors of some mansion were smashed into fragments, costly hanging torn to shreds and scattered, and book cases lying everywhere. The tornado seemed to have sacked every place.

Then I said:-

Everybody is depressed, agitated, apprehensive, parichy and angry. The recent homicidal haridan violence of the storm has increased apprehension from day to day. They always fear another. In other city convents also are a thing of the past, the winds actually confiscating them. The vast estates of the Churches are as has been. The passions of the people all over the country is most aroused against the storm but I don't know in La Salle it is a dead letter.

This storm has done what no other tornado has ventured to do. Everybody is still greatly shocked over the headlong course of recent

4168 and great number of those who survived this haridan. ^{shrank} ~~shrink~~ back in dismay at the strange destruction of the Gleason and Angel Guardian Orphanage and the Sacred Heart Convent.

It seems to me that a general madness has ~~seized~~ seized all the survivors as far as the twister traveled, and nothing can be done to arrest it.

The President and Railroad and all wire communication restore can do nothing because of the total destruction of all communications that events have to take their course and what that will be heaven only knows. The violence of the storm was beyond all bounds and nothing can compare to it.

At any rate there is nothing to be done but to wait. Already many of the survivors terrified at what the storm has done have and are leaving this part of the country, and I'm sorry to say many from Gleason City have also gone. This is cowardice.

From those who do remain behind there is none of the usual gaiety and a deep gloom hangs over the whole country.

Yet those ^{who} were leaving for other parts of the country did so

because they find the situation after the storm intolerable dread-
ing the horses of the haridan which
now constituted a danger to things
mobiles and property all over Europe
besides here, yet the Mayor of La Salle
is very indignant at the great emig-
ration of all survivors of the disaster area
that is going on.

In the first place he holds that they are deserting their cities, towns and territories in the face of the storm enemy and in the second place by their quick assemblage to other parts of the country and their intrigues in southern cities towards where they fled they are causing the people to look with ~~sup~~ suspicion upon all damage of the weather, yet I'm wondering about the poor woman who lost her two children. We have a plan that might help her recover her mind.

"Go on thing from thing" the head man of the meeting said. It is terrible that convent + holocaust. The priests and nuns there too. Those unfortunate children who were such good singers and had such good angelic voices. It's better if they had never come to the convent to sing. About those twelve is the main tragedy. How is it that God allows such things to be?"

9170 We cannot tell " I said sadly
as for myself I can hardly
believe it though I saw the convent
on what remained of it. The first
time I saw it, the sight put me into
a terrifying horror and sickening
feeling. I dreaded to look at it. They
say there were twenty five hundred
children in the convent and they are
all gone "with the wind" Such a thing
was never heard of.

I can hardly believe that I
am not in a dream now. I felt crushed
with the sight. Quite a few times I
have gone to see the poor woman
who now lies weak and apparently
unconscious alike of the past and
present, her mind completely gone
but the told me that in this respect
he did not think the case is
hopeless.

Her strength seems to have
absolutely deserted her the doctor told
me! and her mind is a blank
like that of a little child but
by no means despair of her
gradually recovering if she could
see two orphan children before
her who resemble the lost ones.
It might strike a chord now
lying dormant and set the

brain to working again. 4/7/1
Every now and then she shrieks
"Oh they're dead. Oh they're dead"
I myself the next day at the hospital
in a state of delirium, during the
weather and crying out again and again "they're
dead, they're dead" and that she would die
with her children.

The doctor that day did not say
much, but shook his head and said the
loss of her children had caused a terrible
mental shock and that he could not
answer either for her life or reason.

There was nothing to do but be
patient to keep her head bandaged
with wet cloths and to give her water
from time to time. Don't be afraid, said
he said to me she will be watched over
carefully.

"This is awful" I had said to myself
as I was on my way to see her again.

Most of the convent gone, all its inmates
massacred by the storm unusual numbers
murdered by the storm at the Angel
Guardian Orphanage. My wife also killed,
that poor woman mad with fever
over her lost ones, Angelina Riches
and Dorothy Gale, survivors with no
one to trust but me, my people at
home in a frightful state of mind
about me. It's awful to think of.

4172 It is enough to drive a fellow out of his senses. Why does God allow those blasted tornadoes to form. Then I continued well will go and see how Mrs Anne Rooney is getting along. The Doctor thought there was a change yesterday Poor woman! if she comes to her senses I shall have hard work to keep the truth about her two children still missing.

I would send her off of air worse than ever if she had an idea of it. Why is Nature so cruel? And how is your patient to day madame? I had asked of the nurse as she led me to her room.

"She is quieter much quieter she replied" I think she is too weak to save any longer, but otherwise she is just the same. She lies like a statue with her eyes open talking sometimes to herself about her children living dead, and other times I cannot make out any sense in what she says.

The doctor has been here here this morning and he says that he thinks another two days will decide, if she does not take a turn then she

4173 will die. If she does she may live but even then she may not get her reason back again unless two orphan children

who resemble her lost children are brought before her. I know its a deception but its the only thing that will bring her around. Poor Young Woman, I feel for her almost as if she were my daughter. It was three days later when this time I sat by her bedside. She was slightly better, she was no longer unconscious, but followed with her eyes the movement of those in the room.

Once she said where am I? but the answer "You are with friends, you have been ill you shall hear all about it when you get stronger" had apparently satisfied her. At once she looked with doubtful recognition, yet we had known and played together when we were children.

He She seemed to remember my face but to have no further idea about it and even when I said cheerfully - "Don't you remember your friend and childhood playmate Harry Dager?" she had shaken her head in forlorn feeble negative.

4174 "I expect it will all come back to her if two orphans resembling her children in eyes and looks are brought before her," the nurse said. "But as before the orphans must be willing to do it. Then she will get stronger, and after all it is much better that she should remember nothing at present. It will be quite time enough for that when the orphans are brought before her when she is able to stand it."

"I agree with you there," I said "and I am really glad that she did not remember me, for had she done so without the orphans being brought before her, the part might have come back at once and felled as she is that will completely knock her over." Then I said to the assembly, "But where could such orphans be obtained, could there be any found to resemble her lost children?"

"That's a difficult question" was the answer. "You're the main head of the Relief Committee you can find out."

"I will," I answered. "I'll have that investigated to morrow." By the way

I continued. "I've heard and read that if all windows in the house in the path of a tornado are all open it save the house from total demolition. Is that true?"

"I doubt that," answered the head of the meeting. "Only one third of the windows on the west side of the convent were closed and not all the way. East south and north they were all open from top to bottom. And yet what happened to mighty building. I don't believe a word of it."

"How was that known?"

Sister Clare and Mildred Maxwell the survivors said so."

"I knew all the world looked on amazed at what the tornado had done for the loss of the children was shocking. It was believed like at the Gleason Asylum that some sort of carelessness had undoubtedly brought on the calamity to the children, which had allowed the wind maelstrom to march on its bloody way towards the Convent without warning."

It is the victim ~~persons~~ looser the city mob, the priests, the bereaved, the wailing throngs outside of Chesterbrook waiting for news of their lost ones from the Convent, the delicate women, children and culter cultured men who had

4176. reason to complain for it was probably some carelessness which left the convent at the mercy of this double crossing storm. The convent had been the most expensive building which the storm wiped out.

"Then I continued:

"My little friends Angeline Riches Dorothy Dorothy Dorothy Jane and Jennie Dot are still passionate and indignant in their sorrow over what had happened to the convent and the Angel Guardian Orphanage.

Over and over again they had implored me to try and do something for the poor woman Mrs Rooney whom they often go to see. They say everyone is still shocked panicky and alienated because of the disaster and by the violence of the storm and Dorothy had urged that I might as being the main Chief head of the Relief Committee obtain some pass or document which would enable some officials to go to Agulman and find children that resembles Mrs Anne Rooney's lost ones.

But so far I could not even try to make any attempt on her behalf, as much as I had an

overpowering desire to do so.

4177

I said to them "In the first place I don't think it would be utterly impossible, absolutely impossible for any deputy or other to do so, and no pass, permit or correspondence that even the Mayor of La Salle could give would be of the smallest utility, because of all total destruction of wire and railroad communications.

You must remember that although all apparently unite again against the results of the winter there is now a never ending struggle going on in the Convention between the various parties and the various leaders over this second breaking calamity.

All type of important personages have gone to various construction Companies to find out what was used to build the Sacred Heart Convent. They had used the strongest material ever manufactured so it was the strongest building ever but built yet look at it now. We won't let any of those waiting outside for news of their missing children to come and see it under penalty.

There'd be too many saving marriages to come. In the main head still of the Relief Committee and rescue division, and although perhaps the most prominent, but could any one

using a pass from me among
4178 those waiting believed people to
come within view of the shattered
remains of the convent, if only to
see the shambles, that pass would not
be respected by the authorities in the
next place Dorothy I have nothing to
do with the devastation of all the
City of Chesterbourn

I am not responsible for the
coming of that homicidal harud an.
I am staying here to do what little
I can to watch over you three, and
to do what is possible for poor Mrs
Rooney and I have also if possible
to have officials locate two children
resembling her lost ones who
this wholesale murderous twist blew
with the convent top section and
all in it into nothingness.

The responsibility is heavy
enough and could I by merely signing
my name, pass a note through the
communication blockade, I would not
do it, if the act in the slightest
degree interfered with my freedom
of action towards trying to bring on
the recovery of Mrs. Rooney by that
most necessary Deception. She was
my girl child playmate playmate
when I was a boy, a dear friend

and when we grew up I had 4178
her meet by her friend H. Albert
John Rooney whom she married. She
did not change her name as her
last name also was Rooney.

"But Angelina Riches, and I and I not would
risk anything for her even if we had to die
for it" Dorothy said passionately.

"Happily" I replied coolly "your
dying would in no respect benefit her
and as the lives of you three little girls
is in my eyes of a thousand times
more consequence than that of the lost
children and as your chance of safety
to some extent depend upon mine I
do not mean to risk one of
those chances for the sake of going near
that convent for the sake of anybody
or even her,

Besides to tell you the truth I have
a good deal liking for my own
life, and have a marked objection
to allow myself to be buried in some
of its shambles, you see I have people
at home who are fond of me, and
can't get no news of me, because of
the wiping out of all communications
and who want to see me back whole
and entire."

"I know Henry I know" Dorothy said
with tears in her eyes. Do not think I

4180 am ungrateful because
talk so. I am always think-
ing how wrong it is that
you should be staying here
risking your life for us instead
of going home to those who love you
I think we three "orphans of the storm"
should give ourselves up to Relief
Committee of yours and then you could
go home" and Dorothea burst into
tears.

"My dear little Dorothy" I said soothingly
"do not worry yourself about me. It would
have been just as impossible and
dangerous at the time the storm struck
Chesterbourn for me to have tried to
defy the disaster as it would be to
try to leave here now - in fact
I should say it was a good deal
more dangerous and at present I
was not here when it came but
at Ottawa where it devastated every-
thing on a railroad siding but
missed the town, and there though I
saw the horse pass by I was in no
danger at all as I was not in its
path.

I'm a little disagreeable to be so
close to one which respects as being
worse than a wild beast but at
the same time I and my friends

were a hundred yards away 4182
to the east of it by south and
therefore were not in its path
but at the same time I have
found to say it was not at all bad to
get on with.

As for what I have done for you so far as
I see I have done nothing but bringing
you here to Se. Ball for the sake of my
dear parents and myself and because I
love you three and have taken out adoption
papers and being here to have a pleasant
chat with you as often as possible. I know you
have great sympathy for poor Mrs
Rooney, but I feel still worse about it be-
cause we were great friends when we were
children.

What happened to her children is a
crushing blow to me and I strongly yet
firmly intend to have two children found
to resemble I hope to try have pictures
of her original children. With the best
will I have I will be of some assistance
to her. As we say at home my very
intentions are good, but so far the in-
tentions have brought no useful fruit
what ever. Come little girls dry your eyes
for it's not often that I see you cry and
only crying don't keep Mrs Rooney. We've
got to act. We have thrown in our
lot together for her and for her sake

4183 we'll swim or sink together
on her sake you keep up
my spirits, and I keep up yours.
Don't let there be talk about
failure. There will be time enough
for that if we do."

I spoke lightly and the little
girls with a great effort recovered their
composure and after that although the
trial and sorrow of Mrs Rooney were
slightly discussed and lamented they
never said a word for they knew that
the hoped catastrophe could never had
been averted.

Next day we again went to see
poor Mrs Rooney. Still but little change
had taken place in her condition.
She remained in a state of almost
lethargy with the same expression
of dull hopelessness on her face moaning

"Oh they're dead or they're dead" sometimes
she passed her hand wearily across
her forehead, as if she were trying
to recollect recollect something dear
to her she had lost, she was still
too bad to be moved out of her
bed but the nurse with the doctor
would dress her and place her on
a couch I which I had purchased
for her use. Bad to say her
best friends would fail to recognize

in the bowed down head until 4184
vacant face the good noble woman
and my one time playmate now Mrs
Annabella Rooney. I again had to talk
concerning her with the little girls.

"What should we do Henry?" Dorothy said.
If we could get two orphans that are like
her lost two children, which I began to
despair now of our ever doing, but if we
should do it what should we say to Mrs
Rooney. She knows her children disappeared
with all the rest in the blowing away of
the upper part of the convent. What should
we say if she discovered the deception.
while she was lying broken down and in
suffering in the hospital?"

To this question I could give no answer
but I said "I have been thinking it over
Dorothy and I feel we have no right to
make any children do this without
their complete consent and will to do so.

Her misfortunes have come upon her
because she would let her two children
come with the other ten to sing for
the noble assemblage in the convent. I feel
now that we have the right if the
two children are found and if they choose
choose to do so to become her new
children by adoption without knowing who
who they really. As this is necessary this
sort of deception is no sin."

4185 "When is it going to be done? Angelina ^{Griffin} had asked me. I answered the hunt is already on but such children has not yet been found. "Old Henry" you would never think they will fail to find them and leave her still in her misery?"

"I don't know girls if it would not be best. The two orphans could stay with Mrs. Immanuel Rooney, they would guarantee that they are her children who had been found and they may help in their recovery. I have great hopes that their voices and presence would do what we failed to do, namely awaken her from this sad state of trance sorrow and lethargy."

They could stay with her for life. All the other patients are accustomed now to Mrs. Rooney being with them and if the two children are careful and not give themselves away by saying who and what they really are there will be no chance of any suspicion arising that they are not what they seem to be. It would seem very natural that they could pass as her daughters, lost, believed dead and now found and should come and "take care of her."

"But their voices would not

be the same as that of her 4186 lost children and she may discover the deception."

"I'm positive not" I said. "It really might work."

My next object was to make the acquaintance of some of the boat men on the Magnolia River and to find out if communications was also cut off by the river. This however was not to be. The terror still was universal, the news of the whole sale disappearance of the convent children and the upper of the building the terrific destruction of the Angel Guardian orphanage had heightened the dismay still much more.

Investigation on the horror were going on all over the United States. It seemed the lowest ebb of all winters was now the master of the situation, and had wrecked its hate upon the respectable inhabitants from Johnson town to far beyond Terre Haute Indiana. Every person now distrusted the appearance of any dark cloud and fear caused those who most loathed and the part tornado to be the loudest in the heart felt advocacy against it.

There were spies everywhere looking out for tornadoes. Thus then my efforts to find out things met with very slight success. This storm had committed

4188 wholesale extermination from Johnson town all the long distance it traveled, I perceived that as I moved along the debris strewn streets, little groups of men women or children talking together broke up when within sight of the "what-haw" Convent and any I accosted replied only indeed, but with embarrassment and restraint as they gave a short quick glance towards the Convent and although any questions of a general character were answered, a profound ignorance was manifested upon the subject upon which he wished to gain information.

These I then questioned seemed to know that all the inmates had disappeared from the upper parts of the Convent but none could say the twelve famous little ringers were there at the time. I could see that the tornado was regarded with the most greatest hostility, and there was the utmost strong feeling against even Heaven because of its result and God too.

I began to feel almost crushed under my responsibilities. My leading at the Relief and other committees tried me greatly. I made no progress

what even about the finding of 7158 two Orphan Children and to add to my troubles Sister Mary Clare who had been rescued from the sham of what had been the front of the Convent instead of rapidly recovering and regaining strength appeared to be rapidly losing it, and is still bedridden and poor Mildred Maxwell also the terrible events of the storm and the strong long strain of anxiety as to what happened at the Convent, and the fate of all the children had completely exhausted her strength and the result of the homicidal harudan had aged her as many years at that.

You know fellow members at this meeting I had tried hard to keep up my appearance of hopefulness and to cheer the little girls, but Dorothy's quick eye had speedily perceived a change in me.

"You are wearing yourself out Harry" she said two days ago as we were sitting on a pile of wreckage while Angelina Ritchie and I sat were tending Sister Clare and Mildred in the "University" hospital. "I can see it in your face. It is of no use you trying to deceive me. You tell us every day since the Calamity that you hope soon

4189 to get hold of those two orphan children who resembles their lost loved ones but I know that in reality no one is making any progress. All this week since the disaster and then after the big wheatfield fire when we were hoping to find those orphans—though it seems next to impossible, you told us not to despair, and I know you did not despair yourself, but now it is different.

I am sure that you do in your heart almost give up hope because there has never been such a tornado disaster before. Why don't you trust us for if from now that is what we will call you since you adopted us. We may not be able to do much but we might try to cheer you. You have been so compassionate comforting us all this time. Surely it is time we took our turn though I am still a little child yet."

"I feel like one at present," I said unsteadily with quivering lips. "I feel sometimes as if—as we used to say at school, I could try for two pence. I know little girls my adopted daughters. I can trust you three and it is not because I doubted your
courage that I have not

told you how things are ⁴⁸getting on going on but it is because ⁴¹⁹⁰it is entirely upon you now that also Sister Mary Clair and Mildred have to depend and I do not wish to put any more weight upon your shoulder but it will be a relief to tell you positively and exactly how we stand."

And my fellow members I then told them how completely we had failed with my inquiry and how those I questioned said the singers were not in the convent at the time of the storm. Then if so where are they. They're no where where they could be found."

"I think I could stand that Dorothy but it is the horror of it all that tries me, I to so awful hearing how the awful tornado seemed to have marked out its wholesale number of victims and saving mad over their murder." I feel tempted to throw myself upon old Mother Nature and strangle her."

Then fellow members she said to me "It must be dreadful for you. Will it not be possible for you to give out that you are ill and so be absent from the meeting of the Relief Committee for a time? I am sure you look ill—ill enough for anything. As to the Orphans do not let

4191 that worry you especially from those you questioned said they don't believe those twelve singers were in the convent. When sister Clair gets better I'll ask her as she knows. Even if we could hear that's true at present it would be of no use. And the nurse can't leave sister Clair she seems to me to be getting worse and worse and the doctor thinks so too.

He said this morning to me:

"I cannot do much for sister Mary Clair. It's a general breakup because of the disappearance of every one in the upper part of the convent. I have had many cases like it of people and women and even of religious people upon whom the grief and anxiety because of a calamity has told. Yet they pulled through. So will she. It takes time. Do not worry he said. She will sleep quietly and will not need much attendance. It's poor Mrs Rooney who needs most attendance. If you don't mind I shall have you on my hands. Anxiety and too prolonged grief and worry affects the young and old you know at any rate you see we

cannot think that that news about that they were not in the convent at the time is true. It is quite impossible for any one to find orphans resembling Mrs Rooney's lost children. so do not let that worry you. We are all in God's hands Pa and we must wait patiently what He might do and send us.

"We will wait patiently" I said. "I feel better now Dorothy and you shall not see me again give way. What is worrying me most is their statement that the children were not in the convent at the time and also the thought that it would be wiser to ask sister Clair if she is allowed visitors. If it is true they were not there then where were they. They were going to be there to sing in the Late evening for a Religious Festival.

Maybe too they may have been warned by some instinct that a terrible something would take place and thought it would have been wiser to have carried out some other plan to have gone some other place and for them to have waited there until what ever storm it would be to either miss us or to blow over." Do you believe my fellow members that it could be possible if they were not there?"

419? "I don't say anything" was the answer of the meeting head. "That only be proven by Sister Mary Clair."

"I'll ask her" I said. Then Dorothy said again. "You must never think that for you know we all talked it over dozens of times by finding two orphans who resemble her lost children and we agreed that this was our best chance providing Mrs Rooney does not discover the deception and more when she came out of the hospital after visiting her quite thought so too."

So whatever comes you must not blame yourself in the slightest. And to an equal extent who would be the cause of their responsibility being somewhere else why they made the appointment to sing at the Convent Religious Festival it would be seriously wrong for them what ever the cause to break that appointment.

They could not have been somewhere else. So it is of no use letting that trouble you.

Sister Clare arranged it all Dorothy. She had the responsibility of them being there."

"And to an equal extent their

parents had the responsibility 4/19/44 of them being there or brought them so how could they be anywhere else. So again I say it is of no use letting that trouble you. As to the rumors of their probably not being there you know that might be so, and it not might be so. You know Sister Mary Clair who was Superior there could give us the right information at any rate I could try and find out from outside because of all the destruction of wire Railroad and other communication we could not find means easily about the Orphans.

You see for trade has also been almost stopped because of the storm and there is very great suffering among the people. And the great wheat field fire added to the awful calamity. Why can we not find out about the orphans at once why should we wait till poor Mrs Rooney dies in her condition?"

"What is what I have been thinking Dorothy but the attempt to try that now would be tremendous. You see although I have done a lot of investigating on many things I know very little about investigating this and though we might be able to find the Orphans, it might be much more likely she would discover the deception when she recovers and then

4/9/7 go into a worse shock so
I look upon that as a desperate
move to or to be made only at
the last moment and now that
say they were not in the convent
when the harrikan hit it, I do not
trying such a wild scheme untill we
get the information from Sister Clara
a little Mildred Maxwell A week
now and perhaps all might be
arranged, but the question is — have
we a week have we more than
twenty four hours What do you think
Dorothy?"

"I do not see what is best to do
yet" Dorothy said "It is a terrible thing
to have to decide but I see we must
decide." She said for a moment without
speaking, and then taking down her large
sunshade hat from the peg on which
it hung she said: "I will go and
see Sister Clara and Mildred Maxwell
now and tell them of the information
from person and tell them how we
are all are so anxious about the
truth of it that we don't think we
can judge what is really the best.
They know as they were in the convent
when the storm came up."

It was an hour and three quarters 4/9/6
before she returned
The doctor on that question would not
let me question the Sister for fear it
would make her worse. But told me to ask
Mildred Maxwell so I first told Mildred
what so far you said you heard and asked
if it was true or not. I told her everything
and if it was not true our plan about
the aphans. I said to her "

I and my pa and two sisters are anxious
to know the truth but as to the aphans we
have not known how to set about it. And also
people have told us that sort of deception
would be a sin"

"I think not on saving her life that
way" Mildred said quietly for any one
who knows what Mrs. Mrs. Rooney has
gone through as we all do in this hospital
But you say that Mr. Wanger was told
that the singing children were not in
the convent there?"

"Yes Mildred she finds that scores
had said they were not there at the time
of the storm, so I thought I would speak
to you and you can tell me if they
are right or wrong"

Her eyes suddenly filled with tears
and through her sobs she said:

"I know that all those in the convent
disappeared away, those twelve singers too."

4/97 They were at the late afternoon banquet. The wind exploded the upper part of the building and swept all them away the twelve beautiful singers with them. The remembrance of that disaster has prostrated poor Sister Mary Clair."

I staggered as if someone had hit me with a red hot iron.

"Poor Mr. Dwyer," Mildred had said compassionately "but I pity you all. Every one who survived is still furious that the windstorm has carried off more than three quarters of the convent and all those sweet young little children who was so good to everyone but what can anyone do in the face of so wild a tornado."

I and Sister Clair were not in the banquet hall at the time but in the front room when the wind shambled thru. It had been growing very dark.

We heard a terrible shrieking and howling sound combined. Then something happened. There was a shaking in the air so that I felt as if some one had jostled me. I and Sister Clair were looking at a strange cloud seemingly more than a mile wide.

I can't describe what I saw but my first thought was that the

end of the world would look 4/98
look just like look like
that. It was just as though as the
city within our sight was being blown
up and in all directions by all the
dynamite in the world.

The day was turned suddenly almost
an night. All this time the very air was
roaring and shaking and mingled with
these terrifying sounds I could hear the
cries of despair and agony from the number
amid the swirling wreckage of the building.

These cries added to the terror of the
scene but she said it was impossible
to describe its horror or the dreadful
sensations it produced. I'm reading from
what I wrote down as she told me. It's
a long description. She said it was
like witnessing the world's end. I'll continue
to read.

She says as I wrote first of all
a great strange pallor of cloud partly
shrouded opened out more than a mile wide
and came roaring down the streets
towards us flinging a blinding blizzard
of wreckage everywhere. Someone hollered
"Look at that crazy cloud." We saw a
vast black cloud coming towards the
convent yelling like "bloody" murder.
Again someone hollered "It's coming."
The upper part of the convent broke into

4199 a cloud of flying fragments, a terrible wind came tearing up the floor like tissue paper. I started to rush to the front of the convent when a great wall of cloud as it seemed rushed through the very building. The storm struck the building broadside on.

The building shivered, caved. Everything above was swept away like clouds of dust. I grabbed a stairway to run down in the front part of the building and the sister were caught in a downward falling rush of floor and other breaking parts and almost buried under something like a roof type of ventilator was flung over our heads which shielded us from falling timbers and masses of brick.

It was at this time I received a severe cut on my neck and a wedge of timber was tight against my neck nearly choking me. It took seven or more hours for rescuers to liberate us from the wreckage and bring us here in the hospital. Yes it's true. There from beautiful twelve ringers perished with the rest. The tornado struck at the time before the banquet started. Everything disappeared. It was lucky were not in that

banquet hall at the time. 4200 yes they disappeared with the rest. "Poor Margaret Mildred still presents a most pathetic figure. She was terribly injured. The end of her nose was cut off and her face disfigured. Both arms too were broken. She is greatly distressed over the loss of every one. Fortunately she has her parents but they can't get to her because railroad communications are cut off."

"So you see fellow members that so far as history accepted as authentic is really concerned there is no record of a tornado catastrophe equally sudden and most devious. I have read that Science has begun a systematic and persistent assault upon all types of hurricanes and tornadoes. Helpless to check their destructive fury and hellfire savagery she has now the less sent to Washington the war men from our schools armed with exact methods and with delicate instruments and they assumed the task of observing and recording what ever may be gathered for the stock of human knowledge."

The well known peculiar and singular Phenomenon.

Among these eminent Scientists is Professor

4201 Henry John Jaggar once of Harvard University to my mind he said "the most interesting point about the strange formation of this tornado is the fact the lower part of that homicidal cloud before coming down shaped like the head of a little girl with her face contorted and tongue out as if she was very badly being strangled."

Something was above the head in a vertical direction afterwards took an almost a slantwise horizontal sheet and shrieked horribly the face took on awful convulsions the tongue protruded out further and shot forth the most terrific lightning ever known before.

While it is too early yet to attempt a definite explanation of this singular phenomenon, I am inclined to believe that as witnesses at least claimed acted as if the 'head of the child' struggled most desperately to rid itself of the awful grip around its neck, the tongue stuck out further began to swell lengthened out and suddenly hurled itself to the ground forming to the ground in the length

of a screaming howling the 4202 funnel and following the law of gravitation descended with great velocity a velocity comparable to its sudden formation especially as it neared the ground with a globular form at its bottom

It was accordingly deflected in a horizontal direction. This action was like a most powerful blowpipe effect and rushed forward with ear-splitting shrieks and howls in the direction of Johnston Town and farmlands in the Territory. The intense extreme force from this 'blowpipe' etc cut a path through that small city more than a mile wide for there was a well, very well defined line of demarcation between the remaining parts of the town and the wide tornado path. Then from there it crossed even as far as New York State, New Jersey and lost itself in the Ocean. I believe of all places Chesterton city was totally devastated the most

Along the edge of where the houses are missed I still saw the twinkling of scores of fires and many dark figures flitting to and fro against them. These are the survivors preparing supper. They

4203 are quartered in the St. Patrick's schoolhouse and in a botanical experiment station nearly crowded in on beds, mattresses and on the floor, and looking in the air, large throngs of ragged men, half dressed women and naked little children of both sexes who are chattering, scolding, squalling and gathered eagerly about the Relief men to learn any fresh news of the after math of the terrible inexorable tornado and to beg a penny.

Nearly every one of these people has lost a father, mother, brother, sister, wife, husband, or child. Uncle Aunts, Cousins, Grand parents or other relations many are ~~be~~ bereaved of all their families and all their friends, yet there are few outward signs of grief or mourning.

Not can one say that the air is that of dull resignation. Rather it is a haze. They do not seem to realize what has happened. They have passed through the most terrible and inexorable tornado on all record, and the taste of tornado tainted air and sense of safety are still very strange to them.

I ignorant and slow of actual understanding

understanding they are and 4204 they will emerge from this homicidal calamity like people in dreams. It doubtless marks an undeveloped mind in the people of Chesterbourn, that few if any have been made insane by the awfulness of their experience.

Their sufferings are chiefly of the body and these are endured with the patience of cattle that is wonderful to a person made supersensitive by the refinements of Chesterbourn life. I stepped across to the improvised hospitals built from the best of the wreckage and I noted the sad solemn silence and resignation there. There shelters have been built close to the open ground and by the railroad bed and the river to get air and escape the flies.

Their sides are drawn up for free access of the breeze and the cots made from wreckage are arranged with feet towards the inner walls of the shelters.

All the patients are men, women and children. The doctors dressed in white. There are young, old and many children in the Company but no rich and poor. All are poor, abjectly unconsciously poor with a storm made poverty that seems to have never

Q205 never know a day of plenty, 70 most of them this care as 7 observed gentle men of this meeting, this care and tenderness is a wonderful experience, 7 the doctors and nurses and interns go from one to another with a cheery, reassuring word and a smile that are worth more far more than medicine.

As the cotton and bandages are snipped and peeled from the raw badly torn flesh the patients wince and sometimes tremble with the pain but there is not a word of complaint, not a sigh of weariness not a groan though young injured children scream howl or cry, though some of them to morrow will be carried from the place and lowered to the earth (because of all blockage there can be no funerals) where the grave diggers is laying his tissue line of double trenches long lines filled in at one end as he lengthens them at the other.

The injuries are worse than

any that occurs in the worst railroad accidents 4206 there are crushed skulls broken leg deep lacerations torn open

The flesh has been torn up the skin has been peeled off in strips eyes gouged out ears are torn off from their heads eyes have been totally or half blinded arms and legs neck and chests and bellies are deeply swathed in bloody cotton

A few relatives a wife a son wait the shelter and sit beside the sufferers as still and as patient and fan them or pass water to them from time to time. So far it has not happened but a great epidemic has been foretold for these afflicted tornado torn territories and no prompt and adequate medical service can be made to prevent it and the agency of flies and mosquitoes are making much mischief and must be taken into account.

On going through the tentcity of the thirty one missed buildings we encountered a throng of people gathered about the doors of a long building with paul boxes and baskets. They were of all ages and both sexes.

4207 and they displayed the same admirable patience that is shown in the hospitals. They were the applicants for relief. It is too early for any of the supplies to come by freight from the south as nothing can come from any other direction because of the ruin of railroad communications. But the local measures are presently effective.

Only it is to be remembered everything is slow because of what the storm did. Yet there is no red tape wound around anything but even disrupted communications southward will delay the means of assistance to them.

Some of these people told me that they have been waiting since morning and have been told to come back again tomorrow. It had been hoped for to finish the business in an hour. The food which has been distributed is bread, ham, steaks, flour, cereals and the like.

In the stricken district the people must rely on that long supply building. This morning that relief station was besieged

again and the ration were 4208 handed out in the same hesitant fashion, but there are no references to rules and regulations. The head of a family of seven tells me that yesterdays allowance was four and a half pounds of food meat and fish not quite a pound apiece for his people and some who stood in the throng - they do not form the applicants into line - all day got nothing at all.

There are also moral obstacles in this food distribution that other places are happy to shrink from. At the "University" Hospital it does not look at all as if it needs to be one some months hence. The injured are as well-treated as circumstances allow and their condition is favorable. Those who are being discharged are finding their way out of the district and are seeking refuge at Springfield or St Louis.

The best that can be done for the most severely injured in Simon Segner "Laird" hospital is being done, aided by Simon himself. Two things are still significant. Hourly services in all the churches throughout the whole nation and the incoming of

72.68 of what may be called refugees. The services still begun at early mornings, the untenses are still draped in mourning, and the bells clang at

frequent intervals you would say that perhaps because nations miss prayers and all were said so often that the congregation would be small, but no, there is such a large attendance that long ranks of people go have to wait outside the churches.

These people are on their knees and there is earnestness in their petitions - more earnestness than their worship has shown for many years. Many from the tornado torn territories are also leaving for other regions southward.

But Chesterbrown? There is no such a place its fleeing citizens abroad are of the race of Ishmael and homeless.

Many who traveled from Chesterbrown looked for her in vain. Some one cried "There is the city!" But you see no city at, you mean all that widely strewn wreckage which more than any other thing suggest a long long

publish junk yard only when 4209 you are as close to it as the law allows you can realize that here was one of the most charming cities in this part of Illinois. Poor people. There was almost time to escape if you had known But no. That day was the feast of the Assumption and heaven would be good to you.

Yet that terrible child strangled cloud with tongue at first protruding which is further distinguished now from having caused the greatest tornado cataclysm within a century. I had heard my friends that there was a small bird in Chesterbrown called "Poisson de St something" because it said in French something like "Mother of God pray for us pray for us." The bird is in some room of one of the houses missed by the storm. But the prayers if offered to Our Mother of God were ineffectual as opposed to the wrath of the mighty tornado which has overwhelmed both city and people why was it to be so?

The annihilation of Chesterbrown the principal centre of commerce of this part of Ill is unique in our particular as far as verifiable history is concerned. What renders the

4216 the tragedy at Chesterbourn
"qui generis" is the appalling
quickness with which the work
of destruction was completed
We repeat so far as history
accepted my members as authentic
is concerned there is no record of
a tornado catastrophe equally sudden
and decisive

One of the patients said to me
"we felt a number of electric
commotions at the approach of the
tornado and its aspect was most
terrifying The whole air was
charged with electricity which became
so violent that we feared we'd be
shocked or electrified"

The destruction of the Convent
was most tremendous and all evidence
points to the passage of a furious
blast of wind traveling at enormous
speed and most incalculable
force.

I have read my fellow members
that railroad engineers at Bloom-
ing Ill saw a great crowd of men
women and children at the railroad
stations signalling wildly to be
taken on the trains All were
taken in the Alton freights
and brought to St Louis

those thus accommodated were 4211
almost starved. Supplies were
given to them and they were turned
over to the Relief Committee there
from all parts of this section of
Illinois not cut off by destroyed
communications towards the south refugees
are still going into St Louis.

All roads are filled with still
panic stricken and half starving people
Arriving at St Louis or even Kansas City
these terrors do not decrease as they
fear dark thunderclouds will have a
tornado, and they are so anxious to press
on to some safe place as northern
cities like Chicago for instance as they
were to get to St Louis.

They know tornadoes have hit there
too, The panic was greatest when this was
learned. Some witnesses of the Chester-
bourn terror has told us that the
panic was greatest that awful after-
noon when it came in rolling swelling
clouds The terror that ensued was
pitiful The spectacle of the approaching
cyclone was so appalling that the full
populace could not appreciate the awful
sublimity of it. Quickly the streets
had been filled all frightened wretches.
All struggled to get a place of safety
they knew not where All believed.

4217 that where they were was the place of greatest danger, some cursed in their frenzy thinking it was prayers they were uttering others fell on their knees in the streets and besought protection from above. Few were able to refrain from tears.

For most there was a general scramble for the basement of the houses. The Mayor of St. Louis

asserts that every one in the city should have been able to escape before the storm for every type of barometer in the town was wildly fluttering and it was the talk of the town a few hours before the tornado what this disturbance of the atmosphere might right then and there portend.

Mrs. Clare of Chesterbourn spent several hours trying to warn people and to leave for safer parts but this advice was discredited. I really know and so do others that the disaster at Chesterbourn was one that had shocked the world but they will never be prepared to observe what we have found. When I first came there with the first rescue parties I saw the city sweep to

pieces. We found all the largest 4213 trees uprooted without a leaf upon them. The biggest boughs were snapped off and scattered all over the gardens and the convent park. We noticed that one big brick house lay asunder like a weak cardboard box cardboard box had partly fallen in and the ceiling and wall bath were twisted all in one direction just as one might twist a handful of straws.

This seems to point to the fact that the sudden rush of so much wind caused a sort of whirlwind right inside the house. The remaining inhabitants are still panic stricken by the outbreak fearing a repetition of the last catastrophe which overwhelmed the city. No one now sleeps at night crying and praying for preservation from another such calamity as the first horror.

Even now people are pouring into southern towns. St. Louis is congested and the demands on the government are increasing rapidly as more and more persons are leaving the tornado districts. Everyone is filled with fear of the future. The feeling of suspense is very intense. The people pass their time gazing at the sky every time dark clouds appear. This account

4214 I read in a paper from
Thomas farm August 13 a
report from that territor said
that at four thirty curious
awe inspiring cloud the shape of the
face and head of a strangling girl child
surmounted by a fleecy wheat cap
resembling highly polished silver
was seen from Mrs Roseau farm
northwest on the north sky, the
phenomenon caused alarm in Johnson
town especially as terrible lightning
and thunder came from the protruding
longue.

So rapidly have the horror after
its tearing through Johnson town piled
upon one another that it now seems
ages since the first news was
received here at So. Ball. Now it is
feared that other tornadoes are to come.

Even now still gratifying
reports are coming from all parts
of the country showing that the great
disaster are still touching the
hearts and still keep awake
the spirit of liberality among people
every where.

Human sympathy warped out
the rusty miles that separates
So. Ball from Chicago and about
the American Relief Headquarters

that there are many evidences 4215
evidences of the warmth of feeling
for the sufferers by the tornado that
overwhelmed every place along its
lengthy powerful sweep, and especially
Charter town the quarters at 117 Monroe
street were visited by hundreds of
people, all of whom brought something
to express in material form from the
generous promptings of their hearts.

Rich and poor made the
headquarters a Mecca sought on a mission
of charity. Merchants sent dray with
bales and packages of provisions laborers
laborers offered their mite or money all
were impelled and still are impelled by
the one desire to relieve the suffering
of the people to give shelter to the home-
less and do it promptly.

Most of those who called personally
in the early morning or later in the
evening were men who would be
compelled by the draft on their resources
to deny themselves something at home.
Most of these are still as ready
with expressions of sympathetic regret
and hope that the poor people of
the devastated cities and towns
might not starve before relief could
be got to them as they were to give their
contributions Merchants of any degree are

2416 still making more substantial contributions with the same hearty good will. The scene about the headquarters is still of great activity the contribution of provisions being at once made and sent off.

But ruined communications holds off a great amount of the necessities of life and delivery trains have to make long distant routes to southern cities to make the deliveries. Money even has to be cabled to the places or also telegraphed to the cities nearest to the stricken districts.

The supplies shipped from Chicago, Joliet and Gary Indiana on fast freight routes or other railroad lines are not yet in the hands of the furnishing families forced to remain behind in their storm stricken territories.

The provisions devoted to Chesterbarn by Arnou and Company Chicago is hoped to avert some of the threatened horrors of abject famine. There was nothing to be contributed for wood or lumber - materials for the restoration of their homes because of the immense exodus from the stricken territories and

those remaining behind are trying to erect some sort of houses

2417
houses from the wreckage that can be salvaged for such purposes. Still streams of frightened refugees are pouring into St Louis from all the territory devastated by the tornado. These people are not destitute but they are most terrified.

They want only one thing and that is to be taken far away from the scene of the storm with which they say God is angry and which He will totally destroy by another cyclone before it can recover. They are crazed with fear and beg to be taken away. So why should any one contribute for lumber?"

Even far away St Louis is believed to be unsafe as it had its honor in May 1894 eighteen ~~eighty~~ eighteen ninety six and all people are convinced that is angry with even that city and means to scourge it with another twister and wipe it out.

Utter and unreasonable fear still possesses all souls. In all the tornado territory the conditions are impossible to describe.

It is now known that there has been further loss of life and what is more distressing a ~~to~~ small number of Beemingly survivors mostly women and children are imprisoned by the destruction of all railroad communications.

2218 which surround Bunbury
or what's left of it is almost
impossible for prompt assistance
to be rendered to them by
trains, carts or wagons or human beings
and nothing less than a miracle can
save them from the awful death which
confronts them.

These unfortunates are at devastated
Bunbury. They are cut off from
escape mainly when that big long
bridge across the Fox river was destroyed
and all common roads are swept
away. In this way have the three
hundred women and children at

Bunbury been surrounded with
wreckage from Chesterbourn. Efforts
have and are still being made to
reach them and though they can
be seen pleading for deliverance
it's impossible to give them aid as that
bridge was the only means of commu-
nication and it's impossible to get
through the scattered wreckage.

Their supply of food is limited
if not wholly exhausted and starvation
if not a more terrible fate con-
fronts them. Out of one thousand
people of the town there is only three
hundred survivors. These people are
also in a state of fearful panic.

They do not care where they 4219
go if they could get away all they
as for food and a means of
leaving their wives out town they
have come to regard as a grave-yard.
They are in a sad state of poverty. Many
are almost naked and not one has
more than the clothes they wear as the
storm had blown most away from
their homes and the few dry goods and
other clothing stores there.

Among the homeless ones are many too
old or too young to care for themselves.

Many are orphans whose parents were
victims to the rage of "Sweetie Pie" as
the tornado was insultingly called. A
Relief Committee has been formed near there
but the authorities do though doing their
greatest efforts to relieve the distress can't
reach them without the most greatest
difficulty as all approaches are blockade
by the thickly strewn wreckage over roads
and fields.

Next to Chesterbourn Bunbury is
the next worst sufferers if not still
more worse. Two nations have been
attempted to be destroyed but still
is slow very slow. It is probable
that some of the prisoners intended for
Bunbury will come here. Near
all communications with Bunbury

4221 had ceased after the twister
tore through railroad boat
by river and all wires. No
news had been or received here
until Friday 21 of August when the report
was reached us by wagon that some
terrible calamity had also befallen
Bunnybury, that the small city was
wiped out and that all railroad tracks
and their railbeds were gone. That was a
terrible blow to So Salle.

We knew that the great bridge
was there and it was feared that
the main limited was due on the
Rock Island.

That fear was soon known to be
well founded. That great bridge was
also destroyed. That day was long
remembered as Black Friday at So
Salle - a day of mourning and heart-
rending grief to many there and to ~~the~~
also a day to make even the most
thoughtless shudder and stand aghast.
The mind first failed to take in
the enormity of the worst calamity
on record.

From a sombre silent city of
death and desolation Bunnybury has
become a hideous amphitheatre of
roaring destruction. It is true that it
is foolish to send lumber mater-

material to these stricken cities. 4222
It would be a waste as no one will
stay and rebuild. Bunnybury is dead.
Three hundred of its inhabitants are
dead the rest injured more or less and
the small city will never rise from its
debris. The same with Chesterbrook and
others. Nobody will live there now and
there will be nothing to do. The tornado had
left nothing to be done.

So rapidly have the horrors of the
"Sweetie Pie" piled upon one another that
it now seems ages since the first news
was received here.

The wild destruction of the Angel Guardian Orphanage.

'At the time of the approaching storm'
said one of the members of the meeting
most of the children were in the play
grounds of the Asylum watching the
storm. I don't know if they knew what
was coming or unwittingly enjoying
the strange majestic spectacle. I am one
of the Asylum survivors.

This was about five minutes before
"Sweetie Pie" as she is called tore
the Asylum to pieces. At this time
all of the children were enjoying
themselves in the playground, and some

4223 Looking at the coming storm with fear. While Moreley, Brown and I were beginning to hustle to children towards the building thinking of the coming of a heavy rain it was getting so dark we heard a noise like a terrific explosion and long screaming sound in the direction of the convent.

The sound seemed to crush everything flat and the building seemed to crush everything of itself and to disappear into a cloud of dust. We saw that the top of the convent had open about more than half of the way from the top fronting us.

There then seemed to gust forth from the direction of the convent something that was more than a mile wide hurling clouds of debris in all directions an awful mass of crazy crazily acting cloud, but like the gush of cloud that is hurled forward and in convulsive movements by an unreasonable wind power.

At the same time by a lightning flash I saw a shape like a black girl child, head with mouth apparently open from which protruded a long cloud, and clouds overhead

boiled like frothy waves 4224 as if stirred up by some strange power the movement far above the upper surface, in less than a minute it headed for the orphanage with a howl like a million demons humming loudly at the same time mingled with a frightful hissing sound and the upper cloud came rolling ~~and over~~ over and over upon itself as a frightful undulated shroud advanced upon us.

The air was full of flying debris like the thickest blizzard. I never saw anything like this the rolling of this wave of cloud. The upper part advanced like a gigantic beach combing craze and fury with its top part always rolling down and under the mass and with the after part of it rising constantly to a height unknown, and as the great debris filled shroud rushed madly in our direction flinging clouds of debris at us.

Indeed vast clouds of debris arose from the contact of the shroud with all the buildings. The shroud seemed to blot all that direction of the city from our sight. There rose up an outcry of myriads of voices and the noise from the shroud was such

4225 as no language could describe. Now as the cloud shroud advanced close to us while tearing away the convent the wreckage rose and tore everywhere in all directions and cut off from view of what was left of the city behind it.

"Run for your life Mr Brown, all Hell is broke loose" I said to the attendant as I saw everything of houses disintegrate the convent.

"Oh no it will turn off its course before it gets here" Mr Brown replied. That was the last I ever saw or heard of the attendant.

I turned and ran for the basement of the nearest building on the northward side.

At that moment the southwest side of the main building was tossed about in the boiling sea of wreckage coming against it and a great wheel whirlpool of wind pulled the building swiftly to flying clouds of wreckage.

Then the terrible storm blowing like a thousand hurricanes on one struck the Orphanage buildings and seemed to turn them into clouds of dust. At the moment this

shroud rose and swept us 4226
I heard a more frightfully loud and threatening. If the terrified children were screaming at their loudest agony they could not be heard because of the uproar.

That was the sound of the wooden floors of the buildings and other sections being swept away like chaff. A large wall heeled over like a ship on her starboard side like almost on her beam ends and then flew away like a bird.

Even then we had not yet received the full force of the wind blast for the still resisting convent served as a heavy screen for us.

I was told that the convent later had all its upper parts flung away in every section all in an instant. I should have said that the Head Sister Mad Mary Angeline when she heard the explosion of the tornado she ran towards the main hall. She was a brave woman. She yelled to the attendants for God's sake let us get the children in the grounds into the basement as fast as we can.

The attendants ran towards the entrances and just then the wind jammer tornado struck us and swept them away and we never saw them again. Mrs Scott was

4227 running for the east door of the building we were in so as to get out to safety when some action of the wind whirled him around the waist and hurled him into a small room.

Strangely that act of the wind saved Mr Scott's life and he was not even injured. When I ran into a guest dining room on the north side of the building my idea was to plunge under a dining room table and so protect myself from the storm but before I got half way under the table the hurricane of wind inside the dining room hurled the table up to the ceiling and was flung me like a foot ball against the wall.

The windows of the dining room were wide open and the great wind with a strange green fog came rushing in with a great force.

Then a wall was hurled inward like a ship almost on her beam ends. The wind was holed.

The onrush of the wind swept me from the wall against which I was thrown and hurled me into the middle of the room.

Up the ceiling at the same time sailing away like a balloon.

4228 The wind rush was so strong against me that I felt as if I was burning up and I madly tore off my coat and waistcoat. The wind as steady as a roaring horn was worse than the loudest thunder. It seemed the building was going to turn turtle and disappear into the air. At this time I made my way forward from the dining room.

I came upon a man lying dead. His head & hair and skin of his forehead and face was torn off. He was naked and his skin hung together in shreds and ragged patches. It was impossible to see any distance. The roaring of the tornado the shrieks and crying of the dying children and others and the flying wreckage everywhere made it seem to me as if the end of the world had come and we were all in hell.

Mr Scott, Daniels and I saw dead children who were torn, disemboweled and disfigured by the storm and no one could identify them."

Another member of the meeting Henry James Fayler a Chief employed at the Angel Guardian said.

"At four thirty that afternoon of August 15th Sunday we tried to get the children off the playground as it looked

4229 like another thunderstorm was coming as at a distance there was the loudest thunder ever heard. The greatest difficulty ever experienced was to getting the children to go to shelter, the air then becoming thick with falling rain and some large hail. The darkness was becoming intense.

Most of the children wanted to watch the storm as it thrilled them.

We had to to gaspe grope our way towards the buildings. Appalling sounds were coming from a strange shaped cloud to the westward which was shrouded what appeared to be a peculiar shadow coming towards us in the darkness.

The rain was falling more thickly, the children were running in confusion towards the buildings. Hearing a tremendous report like a big building being smashed and seeing the strange shadow coming I dived into the basement of the newest building digging with me some of the rods shutting the door tightly.

Shortly after I heard screams and voices which I recognized as some of the younger children

and one of the nurses. Upon 4230
opening the door with great caution I made them hurry in. The noise of the disaster was backing out by something.

We two and all the children who did manage to get into the buildings basement were the only persons who escaped practically unharmed.

I scattered far about the playground were the dead and dying children. Sisters and employees - All the playground outlets were gone, most of the building above the basement was it was not there. I emerged in a few moments and the scene that presented itself to our eyes baffled all description.

I found injured children who had been caught in the grounds so dreadfully injured and disfigured as to be unrecognizable. They were in dreadful agony crying moaning and screaming and begging pitifully for aid. Their appeals for water was heartrending. There were yet no signs of rescue parties.

The groans and cries of the dying children for whom nothing could be done were horrible. It seemed as if the whole world had been torn up.

1231 Margaret Jennings the
nine year old daughter of
the head man of the orphanage
who with her mother, two
sisters aged six and seven and a
brother aged eleven and who were in
the ill fated Orphanage is in the
hospital here,

The child is not expected to
live. Her nurse Maudie Jarne
tells told me of her experience.
She told me she was in her office
when the Chief Steward of the
Orphanage Kitchen called out to
her.

"Look at that crazy cloud-head
rushing this way. The st. tongue
is a tornado"

She went to the window to
look and saw the cloud of the
shape of a strangling child like
longer being a long mass of
black cloud coming racing for
the Orphanage. The steward ordered
her to race down for the base-
ment saying

"It is coming and fast"
I saw her rush down to the
basement, her children trying to
race there too. She says she
experienced a feeling of awful

atmosphere full and a sense 4232
of suffocation which was
followed by a strange strong 4232
wind down there. The building ex-
ploded to pieces. Ben Sogari the
carpenter of the Orphanage who is in the
hospital here, severely injured assisted
Mrs Jennings and her daughter from
the wreckage.

With the help of one of the survivors
he constructed a stretcher with the
debris. Upon this Mrs Jennings and
her little daughter were placed

While this was being done Mar-
garet's brother died I brought the
child water at great personal
danger but it was of no avail.
Then the other two little girls
died Margaret and her mother
eventually were brought to Simon
Seegren's 'Barn' hospital. Her mother
did not sustain serious injury
But it all happened so suddenly
and her mother being in the
basement could not see what what
was going on, was not able to im-
part any information concerning
the catastrophe.

Just like poor little Maudie
Maxwell she presents a most
pitiable figure. The child was most

4233 terribly injured. The end
of her nose was cut off - her
hair was twisted into knots
and her face is covered with
bandages. Both arms are badly
broken. Her belly was partially
ripped open and she lost lots of
blood. She is greatly distressed
over the loss of her brother and
sisters.

"I lived in the orphanage with
mamma" little Margaret said.
In the afternoon of the tornado
which blew the orphanage to nothing
we were at supper in the
dining room when something
knocked us off our chairs. I caught
hold of mamma's dress and she
took me in her arms and carried
me down to the basement.

With the destruction of the
orphanage wreckage was falling
all around us and mamma tried
hard to keep big boards from
falling on me.

She fell down struck by a
beam and after the storm some
rescuers carried her away. Then
I was carried to this big barn
with the windmill framework
wrapped around it. I don't

want to die - I hope I'm 4234
not going to die, but if I want
my brother and sisters - I want
my brother and sisters before I
do die" The only friend the child has
is her mother, who is a very capable
woman. She will not know if little
Margaret dies.

She will be all alone in the
world. The doctors say the little girl
will not recover because of the awful
gash on her belly and loss of blood.
But now doctors say she will recover
but slowly. There are terrifying sights
in Segues barn.

Several men were literally cut to
pieces but are still living. The whole
side of one child a boy is gone but
his sight is still preserved. The
bodies of many injured children both
girls and boys are scarred and torn
by debris thrown at them in the play-
ground. They had no chance at
all to escape.

Another and person at the meeting
still much shaken by his experience
told us story of the horror. He could
tell only by snatches what really did
happen. This is his narrative.

"Most of the children were on the
playground still despite the rain.

4235 Beginning to fall I saw
was a crowd of the children
including some of the Sisters
and attendants guiding them to the
head. Sister Mary Angeline was in
her office arranging her papers. Three
hundred feet away was the Sacred
Heart Convent, the most magnificent
building in the world.

Suddenly at four o'clock the
sky grew dark overhead, the clouds were
acting crazily and in convulsions
and the city became as indistinct
as twilight.

At a distance off the air was
insane with a hoarse howling
noise. Sister Mary Angeline came
to the entrance door with a look
of fright on her face. She had
scarcely reached the door when city
and sky were rent by an explosive
sound like a half dozen simulta-
neous claps of thunder as some
strange hoard cloud in rolling
and outward motion suddenly
enveloped the Convent.

What ever it was was raining
madly for the Asphages. A
rain of debris fell all about
us and with it came choking
clouds of dust and earth.

"Quick get the children 4236
out of play ground and into
the basement." Sister Mary,
Angeline shouted. "It's a tornado,"
I ran towards the grounds and with
the aid of others and some sisters
began to herd them forward. If any
of them shrieked yelled or screamed,
I could not hear anything above the
noise of the coming storm.

The falling debris came down
all about us and clouds of debris
were rushing towards us with a confusion
of sound loud and ear-splitting.

We had quickly got a small crowd of
children into the basement with them
when Sister Mary Angeline who had
been joined by her assistant Sister
Mary Rose shouted again wildly.

"It's come coming. It's coming like
mad! Get the children all into the
basement. Hurry get them in down
there."

We hurried the rest towards the
building post haste when all at once
there came a storm of wind that
sent everything flying hither and
skitter showing and sweeping the
buildings in large fragments through
the air with deafening shrieks and
howls. I started to leave the basement.

1237 when a great wall of flying wreckage rushed through the playground followed by a wind of unbelievable force that swept the playgrounds clean leaving nothing behind it.

Inky darkness had fallen upon us but awful lightning illumined the scene. All the children still in the yards were flung around like paper dolls in all directions. The wall of wind struck the main exchange building like a mighty million pound dynamite explosion as you call it broad side on.

It shivered, careened and went to pieces like paper blown in the air, disappearing in clouds of dust.

Nearly everything was swept away. I grabbed an iron cover of a ventilator and ran through the basement with the ventilator over my head to shield it from the falling timbers.

The wind raged outside as if with the yell of countless of demons and howled madly through the basement windows and doors.

I was caught in a rush of falling debris as the floor above the basement sailed away like

a piece of cardboard knocked 4238 down and almost buried. It was at this time that I received an injury on my neck from a fallen brick. The debris was pouring on on to the basement floor and children were dying all over the floor or caught under the fallen wreckage.

I should have been killed with many of the others but some kids who escaped dragged me into a store room. There I stayed (in a room) - escaping serious injury.

Sister Mary Angelina tried to rush for the basement when she saw the shroud of wreckage coming but she was swept away. The hair of most of the children caught outside was ripped from their ~~hair~~ heads and the skin of their bodies torn off. I really believe I have suffered more from the terrible shock than anything else and I don't think I will ever get over it completely.

At the same time of the rage of the winter an electric storm had raged. Electric discharges of terrific force had been almost continuous until the tempest roared off to the "Northeast".

Then I asked him whether in his opinion there was any ~~danger~~ danger

4239 of further tornadoes of that kind. He replied:

"considering the fact that there have been no recurrent tornadoes of any kind of both tornadoes that occurred at the same time from both tornadoes, and in view of the further fact that the one that ~~disregarded~~ desolated Chesterbrow was of even much greater severity than the one at the rear of the second thunderstorm at the same time it may naturally be expected that there will be no further wild commotions this year.

About next year especially about March I cannot say.

Then again the fact is that the tornado at the rear of the second ~~two~~ thunder storm occurred on August 15 and the one that tore up Chesterbrow, Bunmybury and others at the same time to show some sort of relationship or sympathy existing between the two.

I am inclined to believe that the same cause formed it also except it didn't form between two thunderstorms like this whirling homicide.

This theory is further more

strengthened by the fact 4240 that the head of the main weather department or Bureau at Washington D.C. in using his range finder observed crazy formations of the tornado from the second thunderstorm that strungling head of a girl child on the sky line between Buffalo Rock and Ottawa. It was I believe omitted from the rear of that second thunderstorm too which became one like the Chesterbrow one too but fortunately but no towns.

If there is no 'adjustment' or 'compensation' between these territories or between the elements along this line there will be no recurrent such explosions of the air at all.

Funny - how people did not seem to be forewarned, for the storm made such loud noises at its approach and it got so dark. Fact is there would not have been such loss of life in the park had not the foolish crowds stood gawking at it when there was really plenty of shelter to run too. The proof of the park being wiped out of all that was there will account for the immense number of trees floating in the Magnolia River or scattered all over the country side and horrible things happened to the animals and other creatures in the park.

4241. The storm soaring through
the park swept all park and
animal houses and everything in
its path away with it.
From the best of the inquiries
there certainly not fewer than
2200 individuals in the park at the time
of the explosive tornado of whom five or
six survive.

As I heard all the best and other trees
the largest trees and park herbage of
every description of the whole park have
been completely torn away. Nothing was
found of the huge Conservatory or its
most expensive floors or the land
house with all its birds etcetera.

The big park power house is
rumored but there also is no trace of
its hundred and thirty five foot
iron high smoke stack which was
30 foot round.

I believe this tornado which des-
troyed Christchurch was one of the greatest
of its kind, for the whirl on all its
fullest fury traveled from Johnson
town across all the way to and
across New Jersey into the sea, where
on one town in New Jersey 800
or one thousand were killed.
Where ever it went it was very
extremely violent. The most

fearful about this whirl
was its freakish head a height 42112
fanned cloud and its extreme sudden-
ness and carrying away force.

I read in the papers that one of the most
curious incidents of this tornado was its
strange effects on trains on the Alton,
Illinois Central Burlington and New York
Central, which would lead us to suppose
that the immediate impulse was in the
nature of a violent blow or thrust up-
ward under the running trains. Thus it
is recorded that this strange upward
shock was so sudden and violent on the
trains that the passengers sitting or
their seats were tossed up into the
air to a height of eighteen inches
and some coaches derailed without however
being wrecked.

So also of a Berryman's railroad
Broadway derailed then near the Fox
River was struck upwards from under
neath with such force as to derail
and upset the dining car - killing
fifteen passengers in it and upsetting
all the tables. At Fox river town
during this strange disturbance a
great number of people outside had
their impulsively tossed across
the river and scattered over the
rocks exposed of a hill on the other

4243 side uninjured though at the time there was not the slightest breeze. The flagstones near Gleason City were found all turned bottom upwards twenty miles away, and it was said by the paper that near Buffalo Rock a mass of rock 200 feet high and five hundred and seventy feet in diameter traveled through a mysterious source 800 feet down a ravine.

Strange near Gleason all land marks twenty miles away were removed. What I read also Mr. Dwyer and all you fellow members that Otto H. Tittman is still ever now superintendent of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey reported that very mysteriously the delicately suspended magnetic needles at the two coast and geodetic survey observation stations or observatories, the ones situated at Cheltenham Md. sixteen miles southeast of Washington and the other at Baldwin Kan. seventeen miles south of Lawrence were disturbed at the same time the tornadoic catastrophe all the way across the country to the Atlantic was reported to have

occurred. The "Strangling 4244 Childs" protruding tongue struck first Johnson Town about 3:30 P. M. August 13 and a lay clock across from the tower, which was in the tower of St. Lucy's Church was stopped at 3:10 P. M.

The magnetic disturbance began at Cheltenham Observatory at a time corresponding to 3:30 Johnson Town local mean time, and at the Baldwin Observatory at 3:55 So. Dalls time when this City was side swiped across the Northwest, and simultaneously at the Geodetic Survey Observatories.

The delicate apparatus installed at these observatories is so arranged that it registers automatically by photographic means the minutest variations in the direction and intensity of the earth's magnetic force.

What did the tornado do to effect them there were no earthquakes anywhere. And it is a noteworthy fact that no seismological observatory had thus far reported a seismic during the rampage of this storm. No magnetic effects due to other violent tornadoes even as the one at Omaha, or St. Louis in 1896 have ever been recognized at any magnetic observatories before this.

4245 Purely mechanical vibrations caused by earthquakes have been often registered by the delicately poised magnetic needles. The tornado lambasting Chesterham at 4:35 was recorded not only by seismographs at other various places simultaneously but also at the Chesterham magnetic observatory of the Coast Survey with greater violence.

And at four thirty five this tornado seemed to cause or did cause a severe mechanical mysterious vibration of the magnetic needles about their near position of rest and lasted for hours whereas the disturbance of Sunday August 15th was a distinct magnetic effect at 4:35 pulling the needles aside from their usual direction and lasting until the storm passed wildly across New Jersey. How did the tornado effect them no one knows.

Another thing. By those who survived the rampage of the "strangling" child" as we can call that monster it was said that the dumb animals were wiser than man. Strange weather

weather conditions, out of season 4246 August heat, strange dead calm and then the most record breaking thunder storm long gave warning of the horrendous "Sweetie Pie" which it was storing up to hurl across that stretch of cities and towns also farm lands.

Residents of Johnson town first devastated saw and heard the fair warnings and they refused to heed them. They did nothing to prepare for it and the danger which had long confronted them brought death to hundreds of its residents and ripped up and scattered the part of the town like paper or wind blown dust.

Even before lightning began to flash from the protruding tongue and thunder roared enough to split the sky and the heavens late at 2:30 live stock became very uneasy and at times were almost uncontrollable.

Little lowed till 4:20 P.M. Dogs howled and sought the company of their masters and when driven forth they gave every evidence of fear and looked at the sky. Wild

4247 animals disappeared, foxes, skunks and bobcats, from the vicinity of Chesterbourn. Even the grass and garden make field mice and wild chickens which at ordinary times were found in great numbers near the city crawled away.

Birds ceased signing and left the trees that shaded the streets of Chesterbourn. A great fear seemed to be upon the city and though it was shared by the ~~inhabitants~~ inhabitants they alone neglected to heed the warning.

They even neglected to protect themselves. There was absolutely no alarm felt by the people. No one expected that from the rear of the first big thunderstorm there would even emit forth the worse tornado of all tornadoes. It was unlooked for.

The very contour of the ground around Chesterbourn was regarded by the people as a sort of protector. They had an almost superstitious affection for the whole territory. The Country was peace itself. It seemed to promise perpetual protection even the new river and railroad

trachs were noted, relied upon to keep whirled 4248 from the city and frightened with its storm appearances. The tempests from the clouds. They painted the contour of the ground as divine and pointed to it with profoundest pride as one of the most beautiful Country sides in the world.

From the outskirts of Chesterbourn children played among the fields, families picnicked there day after day during the balmy weather. Hundreds, no thousands of tourists, came with pleasurable looks at the beautiful river where water sparkled and glistened in the sunshine.

The Country side was the place of enjoyment of the people of beautiful Chesterbourn.

I wonder what the foolish trustful people thought when the great storm roared towards them. Had any of them three weeks ago told the people that the elements would soon open up and wipe out their city and hurl death at them those who warned them would have been laughed at.

I could just hear the placid-forbearing people say!

4249 "Oh no, all the land
here is our protector, will not
let a destroyer come at us. Since
our city was first begun to
be built since eighteen thirty five
till now nineteen hundred and thirteen
no cyclone ever was even seen and
we are not in a tornado belt or
territory."

But no one suggested it because
no one even suspected it. It really
scerned out of the path of tornadoes
But you know they form and
strike at random and who knows
where they will come and hit?
Another thing I know is a friend
of mine who is shocked by the
news of the disaster at Chesterbourn
which had destroyed his residence
and drygood store. John Henry
Hamilton is an aged merchant
of Chicago and he has put for
a week silent and amazed
on the pier after leaving the
boat at Chicago intending to
take a train to La Salle accom-
panied by his daughter. He
had left Chesterbourn on
July twenty ninth because of
his daughters ill health and
the prevalence of fever caused

of such unusual heat there. 4250
We had a beautiful home in
Chesterbourn and another in
the beautiful "Bunnybury" said his daughter
to me. These were filled with valuable
curios and mementoes of the cities which
no money can replace. All these and
my fathers places of business are swept
away. The loss to us will reach \$20,000
We had many friends in Chesterbourn
including the Mayor and his family.
We usually remained in Chesterbourn
or Bunnybury for months. My illness
my father was so overcome by the news
that he could not talk."

They Mr. Darger and fellow
members of the meeting that the relative
position of the sun and moon at an angle
of forty five degrees was said by Mr
Thuge Clements the scientist to have
been the cause of the tornado. Do you
believe it or?"

"I cant say or no" was my answer.
What else did he say?"

"Well Mr Clements said that the
relative position of the sun and
the earths satellite was occurred
at exactly ten minutes to 4
oclock on Sunday August 15th
a little for the time the strange
formation of the tornado cloud began."

4251 He insisted that the immense force exerted on the earth by the tangential position of the two bodies acted fully upon the two thunderstorms and it (moister) moister contends its force was great enough to cause the storm to form on the rear of the thundercloud, So the Chesterstown tornado disaster he pointed out ^{which} occurred when the sun and moon were in a very similar position to each other. So you believe it? we don't

"Let him prove it. No?"

The man continued

I know of many poets who have set their imagination to play on picturing hell and its indescribable fury. Milton was one of them, and the greatest.

But the infernal regions and all its terrors as he really conceived them were not more tedious and appalling than the story of the experiences of the survivors of those hapless inhabitants upon whom the explosive force of "Sweetie Pie" tore up all of Chesterstown, Bunbury and other cities.

The only thing lacking was

the hell fire. The fact is that the day of judgment as foretold in the prophetic visions of the pious could hardly impress the human mind with more horror than the half extinction as in a moment or minute of the people of those cities by the blast and this whirlwind of infernal wind forces.

It is one of the most impressive events of the age. It was a supreme holocaust that makes civilization after all seem very frail and feeble and completely dwarfs the sense of importance which fills men concerning their relation to the universe.

There is nothing like a full contemplation of your hurricane, earthquakes, volcano, or tornado horror for knocking conceit and vanity out of the human heart.

And this city of Sa Hall itself is already filled with thousands of refugees from the stricken territory and more are constantly coming in. There is imminent danger of starvation before help from the south can get here. The victims of the awful disaster who have escaped with their lives and even without injury are dazed and helpless as children. They are

4253 absolutely destitute of every thing save the few garments on their backs. The food supply is so small that with the utmost caution it cannot last long among those who are here already to say anything of those who are still to come. From all points many strugglers are making their way here.

All the relief expeditions that are constantly going out bring here all whom they rescue. Yet it almost possible that such aid is also needed for La Salle.

Ever since the storm business has been suspended here. The people of La Salle are still assembling in the churches and the cathedral where special high masses are being (assembled) held here for the great number of tornado dead and even to day they have been thronged since daylight.

I believe the Chester Brown catastrophe appears to be more terrible than at first reported.

Refugees arriving here this very morning say fear another twist. Other districts are worried still with all those still remaining

for news of their loved one at 4254 the convent. I do not believe La Salle can adequately relieve the awful and stupendous distress. This appalling catastrophe which visited Chester Brown and the other cities resulting in the awful destruction of so many towns and nearly five thousand lives horrified every part of the world.

The heart of humanity at this calamity shudders at such destruction and loss of life. Even all reef recording barometers in this country was disturbed by the storm. The news of the overwhelming disaster came as a shock to people everywhere to the south, but of all destroyed communication none could get to the north east or west.

Bulletin boards in all our southern cities in the south were surrounded by eager crowds to obtain the latest reports.

Many who have friends in the stricken cities are being kept in suspense respecting their fate.

With bated breath in the terrible calamity talked about and in every section of the southern part of our country committees of relief are still busy.

The magnitude of the disaster has been growing from day to day. Every fresh report has been adding to the intelligence already received.

4255 and it is made clear that many hundreds of not thousands of the inhabitants of all places as far as the storm traveled have been swept out of existence. It claimed by many in all the places that that crazy shaped cloud in the form of the head of a strangled child perfectly retained its form all the distance it traveled.

Death here is grim enough Heaven knows, yet in comparison with the reach of the devastation single human creatures are small. The destruction of a long city that was an upbuilding from 1735 to 1913, and a culmination of schemes of art and commerce is more impressive and even sadder more sadder than those poor human wrecks of flesh and bone being taken away for burial.

The usual sign of ruin of the city is so immense that there is no comparison for it.

One thinks of burned districts of great cities yet even here the likeness does not hold. In a burned district, walls and chimneys will still be standing, a few windows will be intact some streets will be clear, but in

wind strewn Chester town 4256 architecture does not exist, it is a place of wildly strewn wreckage many houses and foundations gone or strewn rubbish with not one pane of glass for miles.

There is not a yard of clear street. It is as hundreds of blasts of 100 pounds of dynamite had shaken the city around. Streets and lanes lead nowhere, and the pathos is heightened by the names and numbers stamped on metal or blue enamel - futile guides read only by ghosts.

To stand on what was a street like Webster Ave formerly lined with beautiful buildings a great St Vincent's Church and University and attractive stores shops and gay with color, and see it now with mere skeletons of the biggest houses on either side the windows of what is left of the biggest houses and hotels staring like sightless eyes, the doorways gaping like suffocated mouths the pavements strewn with debris to note the fixity and silence is to stand in the presence of death. The world has no other spectacle like that in Chester town to day.

So complete is the destruction

425-7 that little remains to mark the character of what is left of the strongest of the buildings. The parallelogram of masonry, in shambles, scarred, dust covered might be a house, a stable, a shop, a factory, a Church, a jail.

Now and again there is what is left of a yard, or court, with broken flower pots or a fountain that denotes a former home of the Richer resident but which was his house which his office which his carriage shed, which his servants quarters is more more guess.

And this wide torn and thrown down of walls and blocking of streets makes it hard to estimate the length and width of the city. Even St Pierre of Martinique destroyed by the volcano called Pelée never looked like this.

Because of the tornado the newspapers were full of accounts of most strange appearances in the heavens. These came from St Louis, Kansas City, Chicago and other places.

All had the same tale to tell. It is said all these strange phenomena were due to "Sweetie Pie."

It was three days after the awful tornado when the sky finally cleared.

425-6 that the marvellous series of celestial phenomena connected with the great meteor storm of the sun began to be displayed in Chicago. Then it was that the glory of the ordinary sunsets was enhanced by a splendor which will dwell in the memory of all of us who were permitted to see it. The strange atmospheric condition caused by the tornado produced this.

This remarkable sky effects observed in different parts of the country occurred three days after the storm when the sky cleared.

Many of these effects were of extraordinary beauty. Accordingly scientific inquiry was made and in due time there was collected and tabulated a list of places from whence these effects were seen.

It was similar to that after the Krakatoa eruption, but only seen in the central part of this country especially all of Illinois.

Also together with the dates of such occurrences. Eventually it was concluded that such optical phenomena had a common cause and that it must be some strange electrical phenomena and condition of the atmosphere produced by the unusual wildness of the extraordinarily strong tornado.

425-7 all these facts indicate that such a strange electrical condition formed because the twister was way overcharge with electricity. Here are a few facts from the report of the Governor of Springfield Ill.

On the 18th of August at Alton the sun was seen as through a yellow green fog at sunset and there was a swiftly constant shift shifting cloud gave all over the sky with a strange hissing sound. At St Louis on that day a strange red threatening red sky was seen at sunset which also hissed.

At Bloomington Ill there was the record "Crimson dusk sun red after rising, gorgeous sunset first of the afterglows, sky and clouds yellow and hissing strangely like a million snakes and changing red up to the zenith.

The next day most vivid sunsets, fading into green and purple.

On the 20th of this month the sun as seen from Lincoln Ill appeared blue while at Atlanta the sun appeared green.

On the 21th at Chicago the

sun looked like a blue 245° 8 ball and after sunset the sky became so red that there was supposed to be a "big fire" and hissed so much as to make every one apprehensive.

Next day sunset green Remarkable afterglow first seen with a lot of vigorous snapping crackling and hissing. Secondary glow lasted till 7:45 P.M. gold green and crimson colors. Corona constantly seen from August 18 to the 20th. Moist rippled surface of haze which also hissed.

Also all gauges in the Weather Bureau Departments showed a strange barometric disturbance equal to about fourth tenths of an inch of mercury that is an extra air pressure about a fifth of a pound on every square inch.

The effects on the air of minor paroxysmal outbreaks are also recorded by this instrument, but barometers in the most distant places record the same disturbance.

Some great wave of atmosphere from the outflung of the twister passed and refluxed over the country and barometers in the principal cities of the country

2459 automatically recorded this effect of the rotating airwave from the tornado to all parts of this country and also the return wave. The first four oscillations left their mark on upward of forty barograms the fifth and sixth on several, and at Rock Island the existence of the seventh was certainly established.

At the same time that this immense aerial undulation started on its tour from around the storm, was seen the strange phenomena of the sun and sky. Some tornado to produce all this."

Even now still the inhabitants of the devastated towns and cities are abandoning them and are flocking to this city Ottawa and Molins also Davenport. It is a curious sight of homeless women and children and berefted farm families who lost their farms.

This concentration of the refugees threatens a calamity as dreadful as the fury of the tornado for unless they should be quickly provided with food they will

would surely perish, they 2460 reach here on the verge of starvation and most of them are injured more or less, so that in a city of mourning there is hardly a family in it that has not one or more members in the catastrophe. The distraught crowds block some of the streets. Hundreds have been given shelter in the cathedral and every public place is filled with them.

The sight of the very men crying bitterly as they walk and of women collapsing in hysterics on the streets is so common that nobody ever pauses to look at them.

Spasms of weeping sweep over the throngs until every member of the dense crowd seems to be in tears. Threat of famine doubles the misery. The neighboring towns are doing all they can and St Louis, Alton and Bloomington are rendering aid but the food question is desperate so enormous are the masses of refugees who must be cared for.

None of those who have crowded into La Salle and other places has any idea of returning to their

2461 towns and cities It is more than doubtful if they will ever again figure on a map. One person told me that all about him when the tornado passed within two blocks of him there was a strange terrible suction of air which seemed to be dragging him irresistibly towards the twister in spite of all his might and man resistance.

He thought that the entire outbreak that did all the work took about a minute and fairly seems to pass by a certain district after hitting. Then there was complete darkness for a long time so he could not see what the twister was doing. All the full length of Chester brown was turned into a chaotic war.

The outlines of the city but imperfectly remained. The tangle of debris was such that after the rescues came it was almost impossible to follow the course of the streets.

It was from these survivors that came to So. Falls that the alarm felt in the Gleason Asylum a orphanage on that awful afternoon was

Further more a large portion 2461 of blame seems to be upon the Head Superior who with all his family except the head mason shared his fate. Indignation against the Superior grew as the panic of the refugees subsided.

It was remembered that while the tornado was advancing and giving warning of what it was going to do the superior refused to permit the children to go into the underground shelter only thirty feet away from the building.

He believed that the course of the land, the railroad lines and the river permitted him to affirm the security of the orphanage with that idea the superior tried to reassure the children already becoming frightened by the wild noise of the twister and its meanness, and it is declared wouldnt allow the employees to start any exodus of the kids.

For the mistaken judgment he did not pay of with his life with so many of the children over whom he held official authority but it is believed he will never walk again. His wife and children perished and he lost his great office book too.

4262 There two 14 feet statues
of the Mother of God and of the
Sacred Heart of Jesus which were in
front of the convent and hurled
more than a thousand yards into the road
outside Chesterchire are still lying there
face down. No one can move them they
are so heavy two tons each.

This together with the fact that the
huge powerful trees in the convent
grounds were torn up by their roots
and strewn every which way or laid
flat of what was left of them, not one
being left standing and stripped
naked of all their bark and what it
did to the convent and other indications
show that that wave of swirling
wind must have passed through
the city at more extreme velocity
and force than a ~~hundred~~ hundred
strongest hurricanes put together as
one!!

Then another member of the meeting
said:

I am Michael Freeman Roddam
the chief engineer of the Convent. I was
wheeling out ashes and cinders and
first heard it coming. I saw coming
across the distant sky the form of
a naked child being strangled with
arms lifted and legs in convulsions.

and bulging eyes with contorted 4263
face as if in awful strangling
agony. Where there ought to have
been a protruding tongue was a long
peculiar shape from the wide open
mouth mostly widely shrouded and all
out of shape. The body was in the
most frightful convulsions.

The roar from the crazily shaped
funnel that rent the air and sky from
it made all the trees in the convent
yards and trees quiver. The streets
quaked, the convent shivered as though
she were alive. I cannot describe
the noise for it left me senseless
for an instant.

The strangling child cloud seemed
to struggle vehemently while the
shock that came from the wide
open mouth cannot be described. The
sky was black behind it.

Suddenly I saw what appeared to
be a huge huge black squall
squall like a cloud wall approach-
ing the convent at a terrific rate
carrying with it a huge tidal
wave of swirling and flying debris
and blizzard of human beings and
accompanied by a sound like thousands
of dogs howling at their utmost and
in one chorus. The air suddenly darkened

4264 The black squall came
towards us with ungovernable
fury. I ran below into the
basement and dragging with me
Samuel Jackson Thomas the assistant
engineer followed by the boiler room
man sprang down into the coal
room and shut the door to keep
out the wind suction which was
almost unbearable.

The convent rocked and I expected
every second it would spray to-
into the air. Outside a voice plead-
ing for the door to be opened. It
was the foreman over the employees
I opened the door and dragged him
down into the basement.

I dared to look out the western
basement. There came a long wide
black cloud down the streets
which reached high towards the
where there had been in the
child's face a protruding tongue
and open mouth.

It moved with a rapidity
that made it impossible for
anything to escape it. Then every-
thing was enveloped in total
darkness. A terrible mighty
crushing power took hold of
the convent around and in all

parts and though I was in
that deep basement 7 feet 4265
myself drawn into a vortex
from the upper parts of the convent
came an explosive sound that sounded
as though all the navies of the world
were in titanic combat. Lightning
flashed in and out in long
broad forks the result being
that intense darkness was lighted up
by flashes of light that seemed to
be of magnifying power.

"So me" said the assistant en-
gineer the noise above us was a
thunder that all the thunder that
ever roared and all the cannon in
the world had been set off at
once.

I was thrown on my face
and down through the door of the
coal cellar. The awful thundering
noise changed up above to a
fierce surging swarming sound and
then to an awful roaring of
wind that was deafening.

I again fell on my face knocked
down by the shaking of the floor
of the basement by the explosive
noise above. There was also out-
side a confusion of sound as all
the houses were being torn to

4266 pieces or sucked up I could
not have lain there a full
few seconds for in falling?
it was not knocked senseless
it was all perfectly black inside
the basement, it seemed blacker out-
side and down through the door of
the cellar there was a blast of
wind coming that almost tore
my clothes from me.

I thought I had died and was
in a wind tunnel. The door of the
cellar swung shut and I lay
still. The noise of the storm
drove me mad. I could not
stay there it was deadly dangerous
to go outside. Certain death outside
certain death inside. I found the
door but couldn't open it.

It was shut tight the instant
way it was slammed. I took the
key that was in the cellar
and crashed it open. We went to
the basement door but found it
wedged by debris. Here the key
was of no use.

It wouldn't budge. The wind
was blowing a fierce gale through
the busted open window and
so fierce that I got away and
took away my breath. The

morning was fearful but it
was peace compared to the 4267
pandemonium of hours going to
pieces. I made my way on my
hands and knees to escape the fierce
wind coming through the broken
window to the main basement
exit but the sound of the storm out-
there was so maddening wild and
that I dared not even try to open
the door.

By the sound I heard I felt sure
the front part of the convent was
coming down like an avalanche. Still
a most dreadful windstorm was
destruction the house. A half
-half minute had passed. The
noise made me frantic. I dared
to scare myself to look out of an
east window but all I could see was
ugly mass of dark matter which
was spreading over the entire city as
far as you could see and breaking
into solid clouds of wreckage as
blown in a blizzard.

It enveloped everything in sight
in a perfect enormous maelstrom.
I can never forget the hard
choking whirlwind which enveloped
the convent. I believe the storm
lasted a minute and forty seconds.

4268. Hell certainly can't be worse than what we went through. When the storm as suddenly passed by as it came the cyclonic fury of the 'tongue' was shown by the uprooting of the biggest trees in the convent grounds some of which were turned upside down. I heard the wave of wind from the tornado was so sharply defined that a cow on the edge of the track had all its fur and skin torn all away on one side and not a hair was pulled on the other side of the animal which is still alive and not at all injured or suffering.

I saw a wide iron lamp post near the convent on its north side that had been torn up bodily. I witness the awful hurricane that devastated Porto Rico in 1849 and nowhere did I observe the effects of the wind greater than this storm that struck Chesterbourn.

Following the storm such thunder as had never before been heard by man cracked and rolled through the heavens from falling wrecked buildings came tremendous detonations. I have joined

with the thunder all merging 4269. in an incessant roar, that must must have added to the panic of the survivors. The wreckage blocked all exits and we were in the bare convent four days before we were finally released. Fortunately there was plenty of food and water there. When we were released we looking up saw all of the upper part of the convent gone and the north front a tumbled down shambles. I never want to see such a shambles again."

"A clear written description of a careful eyewitness of the strange cloud phenomena."

"Who would have thought that our beautiful town of Johnson would meet with such a terrible catastrophe said the very head of that meeting. I too saw that peculiar cloud and what it did at Johnson town. I could not account too much of the devastation during the storm as when it rushed at us it was getting too dark. I was at that time at home helping my mother at the dinner dishes. I was washing them, she drying them. At first I thought my little daughter was coughing as being half."

4267 half choked my mother at
the same time looking with a
4270 very curious face out of the
window.

I asked the child what was the
matter it being four in the afternoon
my mother desired me to observe a
small dark cloud which seemed of
unusual shape and dimensions and that
sound actually came from it.

I immediately went out onto the
porch and proceed up the steps to
the ~~upper~~ porch where I might more
distinctly mark this very uncommon
appearance. At that distant at first it
could not be clearly perceived from
what part of the rear of the passing
thunderstorm the cloud formed,
but it was afterwards ascertained
to proceed from the rear edge.

I cannot better describe
its figure than by comparing it
to that of the form of a naked little
girl with almost the form of a half of
a man with his hands on a
light strangle grip around its neck.

Its face was contorted with eyes
large tongue sticking way out, arms
stretched forward and upwards and
its legs like it was struggling
desperately but there was no actual

movement of them. A certain 4271
top of a cloud formed near it
like the trunk of a tree and it
tended itself to the underpart of the
recent thunder cloud into a kind of
branches. I imagine either by a sudden
gust of air that impelled it the force of
which increased as it advanced upwards
or by the expansion of the cloud itself.
Sometimes it appeared bright and
sometimes dark and spotted as it became
more or less impregnated with moisture
and rain.

This extraordinary phenomenon ex-
cited my curiosity and I mounted the
steps to the fourth floor porch to
inquire into it more closely.

From the head of the 'strangling'
child there appeared to come a sound
gradually increasing when resembled
the moaning of a vast herd of
buffaloes I've heard when I was
out west upon a American prairie when
they are frightened or into a stampede by
a Prairie fire.

The cloud behind the whole body
had first took on what seamen term
the chopping character of the sea or
ocean above it. It changed rapidly
into something resembling the
wild Ocean current which is seen common

4272 ing the great great noway
whirlpool and it swirling around
from northward to eastward,
observing it started on a most
monstrous velocity while at the same
time came a blinding lightning flash
from the protruding tongue that gave
forth the loudest thunder crash I ever
heard in all my life.

It seemed to add to its speed at
every moment, and worsened in its
headlong impetuosity. Then five
minutes later the head tilted slightly
backwards the arms hung down by
its sides and the whole cloud in-
cluding the child cloud began to be
lashed into an ungovernable fury which
I didn't expect to see, but it was between
the head and the broadening out-belly
that the main uproar held its raw sway
and it looked as if it would burst open.

Overhead there came a strange weak
long hissing sound and looking up
the cloud seemed to tear and seem
to be into numerous conflicting wild
channels too numerous to count and
began to burst suddenly fragmented
convulsions hearing a loud long-hissing
gyrating in gigantic and immense absolute
wildly acting voices. They were

all crazily whirling and 4272
felunging on from the northwest on
to the southeastward and then to the
northeastward with a rapid speed
where which even the Niagara never
assumes in its precipitous descent.

There came another far fiercer light-
ning flash doubly worse than the first
and that thunder crash almost made
me think that the world was coming
to its end.

Awful big raindrops began to fall,
making splashes bigger than your hand and
a peculiar pungent smell was in
the air like an electric motor burned
out. (As I stood still on that forth floor
porch it seemed to shudder and a
moaning sound seemed to issue from
the open mouth. There came a third
flash of lightning from the protruding
tongue and if all the nerves of the
world were firing at the same time and
all the dynamite in the world would be
exploded at once it could not match
the awful roar of the thunder.

At that instant there came another
alteration of the scene that was
frightening. The general surface of
the cloud around the 'strangling
child' became somewhat more smooth
and one by one the whirlpools

4273 began to disappear one by one with a strange gurgling sound while prodigious small rushing of long streaks of cloud began to appear where they had not been before. These strange streaks of cloud was spreading out from behind the head in a circular motion to a great distance while from the mouth came sharp shrieks as from a legion of demons.

The tongue lengthened and became swollen and suddenly took unto itself the gyratory motion of the subreduced vortices and stuck out so far it appeared about to fall out and the mouth very much opened and the head fell more back giving forth a swirling crushing humming sound.

It was deafening and the next flash of lightning that accompanied it was still more blinding, and I felt as some strange mysterious force was trying to pull me up off the porch as if drawn into some kind of vortex.

The mysterious force leveled a row of trees near by leaving a space of ground fifteen yards wide and more than one hundred yards long.

Now I am fixed I stood. I looked at that protruding tongue, the chisel body

all of a sudden was on a 4274
frightful convulsion and the tongue turned into a long black cloud. It literally fell to the ground I believe thirty miles southwest of Johnston town. It moved with a speed that made it impossible for anything to escape it.

Suddenly this long 'tongue' very suddenly assumed a distinct and most definite expanse in a circle more than a mile across. The edge of the whole was represented by a broad belt of dirt debris and dust and of gleaming spray of some kind on both sides but no particle of this left the upper part of this 'tongue' whose interior you could not see but the outer part was smooth shining jet black shroud of monstrous size inclined to the horizon at an angle of fairly five degrees speeding around most dizzily with a motion that seemed to be swaying and sweltering and sending through the air an appalling voice as which seemed to me as if all the dogs in the world were gathered together there and all howling at one time. My house trembled to its very foundation the windows shook and the concussion threw me upon my face

4275 with a bang and I cling to
the porch railing in an excess
of nervous agitation while I heard
down in streets, "Tornado! Tornado!"

The strange form of this vortex still
coming from the open gaping mouth
had by no means prepared me for
what I saw. That of its wild blinding
blinding rage and fury which was
the most circumstantial of any can
not impart the faintest conception
either of the magnificence or of the
horror of the scene - or of the wild
bewildering sense which confronted
me or of the effect in conveying
an impression of the spectacle or of its
scathing withering fury.

From the lower part of the funnel
came a roar that no one could describe
while lightning played in and out in
irregular snake like streaks and it began
to grow very dark. That a large portion
of Johnson town was going to be doomed
I knew but I was to be prevented
from seeing the destruction by the
darkness that was to come and shut off
the view of that part of the city.

Our part was to be skipped. It
passed us. It is impossible for me
to tell how long I stood there inert.

